Daily Report

Latin America

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Brazilian, Argentine Papers React to Drug Summit

PY2002131490

[Editorial Report] Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese on 16 February, page 10, carries a 500-word commentary entitled "Common Cause" that states that the drug summit has clearly shown the need for a new regional integration policy. The commentary states that President George Bush seems interested in this policy.

After pointing out that the drug problem is finally forcing the United States to focus its attention on what is happening south of the Rio Grande, the commentary notes that during the summit, the United States agreed on the need to support the economic development of the affected countries, instead of treating drug trafficking as its "biggest enemy."

The commentary then notes that for the summit to be successful, it should not just decide on a few practical measures but rather should "implement a new policy in which, for the first time, the United States and its continental partners would sit down to discuss real issues." After noting Colombia's success in its struggle against this scourge, the commentary points out that the elimination of drug trafficking is the most dynamic element in the development of Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia's productive processes. It is thus necessary to develop a continental plan—with U.S. participation in creating new markets and new healthy development opportunities.

The commentary ends by stating that this "is a common cause for the entire continent."

Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English on 18 February, page 14, carries a 300-word commentary entitled "Cartagena Breakthrough." It states that for Argentina, the success of summit will be significant if, during the next few months, steps are taken toward international cooperation in fighting this problem. After stating that Argentina's struggle against trafficking could benefit if the "summit mortally wounds the already stumbling Latin American drug cartels," it goes on to point out that "international cooperation is now the only way to make any progress in this key issue. This course of action must be urgently embraced by all governments seriously committed to fighting the drug trade." The commentary adds that Argentina has fought alone against this scourge because it is neither a large drug producer nor consumer. The commentary ends by stating that the summit clearly sets the stage for the next chapter in the war against drug cartels and says governments must understand the importance of supporting this initiative.

Cuba

Fidel Castro Present at Special Assembly Meeting

FL2002152790 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1507 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Report by Gisela Bel Eredia]

[Text] The special meeting of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] has just started here in the Palace of Conventions. The National Assembly has gathered its delegates to fill the vacant position of the ANPP presidency. With the presence of our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and Army General Raul Castro, both ANPP delegates, the national anthem was played.

Once the full quorum was verified, the ANPP Acting President Severo Aguirre del Cristo read the delegates' agenda for the day, which will be to fill the vacant position of the ANPP presidency.

New Assembly President Elected

FL2002172690 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1710 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] The National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] has just elected Comrade Juan Escalona Reguera as its president and Comrade Zoila Benitez de Mendoza as vice president. The ANPP was summoned today for a special meeting to fill the vacancy of the post of president, left open since the death of Comrade Flavio Bravo Pardo.

After approving Comrade Severo Aguirre del Cristo's request to be relieved from the post of acting president because of his advanced age—he is 78 years old—the 468 present deputies also voted to elect the vice president, who is currently education director in Havana.

I repeat, Juan Escalona Reguera and Zoila Benitez have just been elected president and vice president, respectively, of the ANPP.

New Assembly President Speaks

FL2002233690 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2301 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Acceptance speech by Juan Escalona Reguera upon election as president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, ANPP, at the Palace of Conventions on 20 February—recorded]

[Text] Comrades, Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, comrade members of the Council of State, comrade deputies, comrade guests. You can imagine the emotions that Comrade Zoila [Benitez de Mendoza] and I have experienced during these hours. To assume the responsibility of leading the National Assembly of the People's Government in our country is an honor and great motivation for any revolutionary.

To do this under the conditions that our country, and the world, is living under at the moment is a serious commitment. We, Zoila and I, want to point out to the comrade deputies that all our passion, all our condition of being a revolutionary, will be used to make a reality out of the agreements adopted in the recent special plenum of the Central Committee of our party. We will constantly work to rectify and improve the lives of the local organs of the People's Government and our own assembly. We want to thank the comrade deputies for this generous election. The number of votes we received surpassed the most optimistic of our calculations.

We will now continue being what we have always been—rank soldiers of this revolution and ready to fulfill any task. If the day came when an attack was launched against our country, we will face said action with rifles in hand. And once we have defeated the imperialist enemy, we will return to this assembly to report to you how we have been able to defeat it and how we are going to build a country 100 times more beautiful, with less errors, and a more socialist country. Thank you. [applause]

Castro Speaks

FL2102015590 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2305 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Speech by Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, during the extraordinary session of the National Assembly of the People's Government, ANPP, at the Palace of Conventions in Havana on 20 February—recorded]

[Text] Comrades, the truth is that Juanito [Juan Escalona Reguera] did not give me the microphones, he forced the microphones on me. I was asked whether I was going to speak. I did not know. I said that it would depend on what Juanito was going to say. I did not know if he was going to speak. I did not know if he had prepared a speech; I did not know if he had prepared some notes or something. Depending on what he said, I would speak. I also thought I would have more time to review some information, some figures, at least something released by the international press, but that was not the case. What we heard was a very substantial, but brief speech. Escalona spoke filled with the kind of emotion that, as he said, we can just imagine. Not only can we imagine the kind of emotion he must feel, but we have also seen it and we have heard it in Escalona's words.

I believe a good choice has been made. This has been proven by the number of votes cast, positive votes. The idea was not to drop a piece a paper in a ballot box; the idea was to vote directly for our comrade while being alone with our conscience and in the solitude of the voting booth. We marked our ballot; not a single ballot was annuled. This will give you an idea of how well we

can all follow instructions. The secretary explained the voting procedures, and no one made a mistake. It was only logical that there should be some differences. This is not only logical but good. Some comrades did not feel that the voting procedures were appropriate. Ten comrades did not vote for Juanito, that is fine; approximately 17 comrades did not vote for Comrade Zoila [Zoila Benitez de Mendoza], that is also fine. They expressed their viewpoints, they expressed their opinion and that is good. I also believe that the assembly has shown that it holds these comrades in high esteem.

I was talking to the electoral commission....[changes thought] By the way, did you know that we violated the laws? No you do not. Who can know it with all the laws we have approved and have not had time to study. Well, according to the law, there should have been 23 members on the electoral commission; however, a deputy suggested the appointment of two additional members. He suggested a representative from the Republic of the Isle of Youth—excuse me, Montane [not further identified], the Special Municipality of the Isle of Youth—and another one from Cienfuegos. It was then decided that the electoral commission would have 25 members. Since the assembly is sovereign, I believe it can take care of that technical mistake. However, no one remembered that there should only be 23 members on the electoral commission. No one caught the mistake, not even the lawyers who are members of the assembly. I met with some of the lawyers and we analyzed this technicality. I explained a principle to them. They asked me the party's opinion about this. The party's opinion is that it will never give up its role as leader. [applause]

I already said that this was not a constitutional matter and I am not going to repeat myself. I spoke of this during the Cuban Workers Federation Congress. It is not a matter of whether it is constitutional. All I said was that we were not going to erase it from the constitution and even though it is only a technicality, we are not going to eliminate it. We have said that the constitution is the daughter of the revolution and not the mother of the revolution; the constitution is the daughter of the party and not the mother of the party. The party exists per se as an instrument of the revolution and, in addition, we will firmly maintain the concept of the single party. We did not get this idea just from Lenin. We also got the idea from Marti when he founded the revolutionary party for the independence of Cuba. He did not make three or 10 parties, just one party to lead the revolution for the country's independence. We had several parties and several organizations, however, we made them one because one day we discovered that it was best to struggle for the unity of all the forces. These are two sacred principles; Marti's principles.

I believe Marti talked about the party before Lenin did. We would have to review the history books to see when it was that Marti talked about the party and about organizing the party and when Lenin talked about this. We are doubly inspired by this; we are inspired by Marti and we are inspired by Lenin; it is also a revolutionary inspiration born from a specific reality and a need.

The unity we achieved when all the revolutionary forces were united was a victory for the revolution. The progress the revolution has made is a victory. This unity has given the revolution strength and has helped it defend itself from the attacks of the enemy, from all the conspiracies of the enemy, and from a blockade that is over 30 years old. This is a heroic resistance against imperialist hostilities, a heroic loyalty to the principles of revolutionary internationalism, which has written brilliant pages and in which a large part of our people have participated. Therefore, we say these are principles for friends, enemies, and for those who are neutral.

Now, what our party has to perfect is its method of leadership, its work, even its structure. As we recently said, we have have to perfect not just the party but also the state's institutions and the mass organizations that overloaded their personnel rosters—certain problems arose as a consequence. Some institutions have dual leadership roles, or jobs, which is not convenient under any circumstance. We must rectify all these aspects. We have been fighting a battle over this for a long time. However, even in the factories and all the work centers the personnel rosters became large. But we will not say that we will decrease the personnel rosters overnight. We have no reason to hurt the honor, or the self-worth, of thousands, of tens of thousands, or of hundreds of thousands of people by telling them: Your work is useless. Go home, even if it is with a salary. A man feels humiliated when he is sent home, even if he being paid.

We know how we must carry out this effort, all this work, even this entire principle of rectification and strengthening—but without taking away an iota of authority from the party. On the contrary, during the entire process of rectification we have increased the role, authority, and prestige of the party. The party is our fundamental instrument, par excellence, of the revolution and of the construction of socialism. It is a historic and extraordinarily difficult task because socialism must be constructed under the conditions that our country has had to face—a few miles from the most powerful empire in the world and under its constant traps, hostilities, and aggressions. It is a historic, gigantic task. How long will we have to work under these conditions? It is possible that as long as imperialism exists. Otherwise, how many things couldn't we do? But for now, the unity of the people is the most sacred thing and the number one weapon of the revolution. It is the sine qua non requirement to win the battle of the construction of socialism under these conditions.

The imperialists would like to have us divided into 10,000 pieces. There are East European countries that already have around 80 parties. Defend the revolution with 80 parties, or with 20, or 10, or with two, or divided in two. Not long ago I was talking with some Italian deputies about this subject. We told them: Our NATO—I started talking about NATO because I was talking to

Italians—is our unity. Our Warsaw Pact, what defends us, is our unity. With that weapon, with that force, we, who do not belong to any pact—and I add that we do not want to belong to any kind of military pact—have been living for a long time exclusively defending ourselves. A long time ago we made the necessary assessments, however we have a NATO and a Warsaw Pact for defending ourselves—our unity. We will never accept anything that will divide our people in any way. We will never accept anything that will break in any way that fundamental force of our people. This is so clear that I think even the children of the child care centers can understand it. I think this can be explained to those children who are two or three years old.

Why do we need unity? Why do we have a party? Within the advantages, there are also inconveniences, and those are the ones we must know how to overcome in our process of rectification, but always basing them on these principles.

And when you want to work....[changes thought] It is not new. I said before the Central Committee when we were analyzing the Politburo's proposals: Do not think about spectacular things. Let us leave spectacular things aside. Let us do a lot. Let us work a lot and promise little. I said: It is important that the steps we are taking are not misinterpreted and that all kinds of expectations are not unleashed inside and outside the country. Within the country, our document was completely understood; it explained the decisions of the Central Committee. Outside the country, it was not interpreted the same way or in a correct way. When I read the newspaper, I can frankly say there was a headline I did not like: Far-Reaching Agreements. The word far-reaching was not necessary—important, they are very important agreements. The headline made it sound like the process of rectification was new and like we were talking about rectification for the first time. We are a small country; and as small as we are, you should note what is published abroad about what Cuba does. It was one word. It could not have been more critical than what it was. Now, it would be more critical because they know more.

It was in the report to the third party congress where the process of rectification began. It began at a time when no party in the socialist arena talked about those things, nor did they talk about restructuring, or anything else. Note the dates of our party congress. It was held in early February, then it had a second session. In mid-April 1986, the bugle sound alerted us to a series of phenomena we had been watching. It has been a continuous, tenacious, and persistent struggle to gradually overcome errors, deficiencies, and negative tendencies. For many people in the world, last Friday [20 February] would have been the first time they ever heard of rectification. Our rectification started before anyone else's, before any party's rectification. We have followed our path. We have not copied anyone's path. One of the things that rectification consisted of was to sweep away a set of concepts, ideas, or ways of constructing socialism that we had copied. We discovered a lot of phenomena in what we had. We said, this leads nowhere. We must improve this. So we worked hard. We have worked a lot. However, the world does not know that we were the first. But now, they apparently do not know where we are headed. I will say a certain phrase that we used here some time ago: We will not go backwards, not even to gain momentum. [applause] We will go forward. Like I told the workers: Yes, we will have change, but it will be revolutionary change to get more revolution, to make the revolution more solid. Do not let anyone dream that we will head toward capitalism, or to anything that looks like private property for production.

Besides, we do not have to invent the independent agricultural worker because we are surrounded by independent agricultural workers, peasants, from all our provinces. How many [hectares] do we have? Seventy thousand, that is not a small amount. They have up to 70,000 hectares of land. Some of them are rich. At the beginning of the revolution, the two agrarian reforms were done and we told them: We will respect your wishes, if you wish to remain as independent proprietors. We know what independent property is and what it gives, and we know what it does not give.

I could give you a list of the products produced by the state. I could mention that the 2.4 billion eggs the people eat are produced by the state. I could also tell you how much rice, sugarcane, meat, poultry, basic products, and even pork, are produced by the state; approximately 100 percent is produced by the state. So much was said of the famous free peasant market, yet the free peasant market only produced two percent of the food that was needed. Prior to the free peasant markets those products were sold to the state, but later were sold by the pound and at any price. Many people have suggested that the real story of the free peasant market be written up and that it should be compared to large-scale production. There is no future in the small independent peasant. I accept the idea of capitalist agriculture, large scale agriculture. I accept the idea of using techniques, good seed, fertilizers, machines. That is the way we work our land. If we did not use this system, how could we have cut down the number of sugarcane cutters from 350,000 to approximately 65,000 cutters. How else could we have done it if not with the use of machines and techniques; how else could we have increased our production. Because we have applied this system today we have thousands of construction and other kinds of workers in our industry sector. This was possible because we mechanized the sugarcane industry. Just imagine what it would be like today if our sugarcane industry were not mechanized. What would have happened to the country, especially in a country where everyone has the opportunity to study, where hundreds of thousands have become teachers, professors, professionals, and so forth. What kind of progress could we hope for without a mechanized sugarcane industry? What kind of mechanization would have been possible if all we had were small landowners? The cooperatives use their own combines, but cooperatives are something else. The cooperatives are not little parcels

of land inside a larger area. The cooperatives are self-sufficient. Their combines can be moved from one place to another to cut cane; the irrigation channels can also be moved to take water to the farthest corner, a sort of artery system to irrigate plants. We are no strangers to the problems encountered when an irrigation system has to be installed on the land owned by a small landowner. We do not have to go to far to see this. We saw it in—Pepe [not further identified] what is the name of the place—Camalote, Camaguey. You should have seen the problems we had digging an irrigation channel there—trace a curve here, a rectangle there, a complete star going this way and that way, something else right in the center—a real disaster. We were working with the United Nations on this; we had our plan. We built dams, minidams, channels, but did we have problems, tremendous problems because small independent property clashes with today's techniques, it clashes with science. You know that we have most of our hopes placed in our sugarcane, in irrigation, and in the field drainage system. We have 121 brigades working on this, and by the end of the year we will have 200 brigades in all. This system practically doubles the amount of sugarcane produced. In the near future we will have many areas producing twice as much sugarcane, not all the areas, but many of them. We have 800,000 hectares that we can apply this system to. Just imagine if this were being done in an economy of small landowners; something like this being done in a country where the land is owned by 100,000 or 200,000 small landowners. I break my head and still cannot figure out how the system could be applied under those circumstances.

The new irrigation system—the microjet and drip system—has practically doubled our rice production. We know how much the state's agricultural sector is producing in our country. We know we have problems and we are finding solutions. One of the problems we are confronting is the peasant looking for other jobs. They have sought easier and more pleasant jobs; they have sought more stable jobs. We know what the future of our economy depends on; we cannot destroy it. We have our own ideas, but we respect the ideas of the peasant. Everyone knows the free market destroyed the cooperative movement. That is the truth. They began making lots of money. If garlic was scarce on the market, you could sell the head of garlic for a dollar, then the man who planted a hectare of garlic was making lots of money.

We also have some bus owners for whom, when the demand for transportation is strong, this become a tremendous source of income. All they had to do was stop at a corner and say: I am heading for the beach. People would just fill the vehicle. All the driver had to say was: I am heading for the rural school. No one has any idea how many people got into the vehicle and no one ever knew how much money the driver made.

Nevertheless, you see many of those old jalopies from prehistoric times driven there. They are of different makes and almost all of them are in peasant hands. In the free market, you can see 15,000, 20,000, or 25,000 of them there. Sometimes one passes through peasant areas and finds three of those old cars.

The free market resulted in nothing and I will give you an example. In three and a half years alone, our state pork production plan should increase by 100,000 tons. That is 100,000 tons of pork, only one kind of meat. I am not talking about the sheep production plan, the milk plan, production plans for other agricultural items, or poultry. Six hundred large chicken coops are being built a year. This is also a three-year program to increase egg production, to increase poultry meat. This is just one example.

The entire peasants' free market did not produce 3,000 or 4,000 tons. It did not produce 4,000 tons of meat that was supplied beforehand in one way or another.

Fertilizer for sugarcane was used for anything but sugarcane, whatever was interesting. That is the reality. We have lived a real, practical experience and we know how to increase production. We know how to convert 12 million quintals of rice into 24 million quintals. We know how to do this and we are doing it with all the irrigation plans, canals, all the systems we have established. We know how to convert 12 million quintals of rice—I am talking about our quintal—into 20 million, 22 million, or 24 million quintals. We know how to do this and we are working toward this. We are making the pertinent investments for this purpose. We are applying the pertinent technology for this, which will save 40 percent of our water. Our technology increases the productivity of the drainage workers [anegadores]—that man who carries the hoe on his shoulder—by four or five times. That man can work on four hectares at the most. With the other system, just by opening and closing doors, he can attend 180 hectares of land. He can ride his bicycle on the roads between the fields. Go do that in an agricultural system comprised of small landowners.

We have a very solid idea and a total conviction about what has to be done in agriculture. If you go from traditional irrigation to the microjet system, plantain production triples. Everyone knows that. You have to tie the plants up. Production goes from 6,000 quintals of banana to 18,000 or 20,000. The plantation lasts 10 years and you do not have to renovate it completely, unless a hurricane strikes. Hurricanes are one of the enemies of plantains in our country. We know how to increase productivity. There are climatic changes. For example, you are now observing rains that are not in season. They are the result of the warming of the atmosphere in the middle of February. All this creates problems. Sometimes there is an excess of water and other times there is a drought, which requires one to desperately rely on hydraulic plans. The necessary water must be distributed from where it is located to where it is needed, which is what we are doing so we can irrigate fields and compensate as much as possible for climactic changes. Man has to adapt to nature and has to use his

intelligence to overcome the obstacles of nature. We have followed this example.

How can we privatize agriculture? Latin America is privatizing everything at the suggestions of the IMF. This involves many industries that belonged to the state, including many of the basic industries. The great modern crusade of the imperialists is privatization and we are in favor of socialization.

What are we going to do? Should we privatize our medical and health services? You know what we have and you know it well and we keep getting more each time. We have a system of specialized hospitals that treat this country's children; that have helped reduce infant mortality to about 11 percent. It is clear that in a little while we can lower it to 10 percent, under normal conditions. I could not say the same if we had abnormal situations. Would we privatize the Hermanos Ameijeiras hospital in view of the imperialist offensive to privatize? What would we do with our family doctor—privatize him? The family doctor is in every corner in every rural area... [corrects himself] in the mountain area and that service is extended more each time. The doctor is in the factories, in the schools. What will we do with him—privatize him?

We cannot privatize anything. On the contrary, we must gradually socialize, because we are not going to confiscate anything from anyone. We will not confiscate anything from any of those peasants who have taught us so many lessons about agriculture. These are the peasants who have taught us what we can expect from agriculture because they are the most privileged peasants in the world. They have received all kinds of loans, which have been pardoned many times. They do not pay taxes. They are the only peasants in the world who do not pay taxes. We love our peasants. We do not throw in their faces the fact that they have private property. We respect them because they are part of our revolution. They are part of our history.

No country in the world has done what we have done with our peasants. They are given all the tractors they want. Everything has been mechanized. Electricity has been taken to everyone. Naturally, in the isolated areas it is more difficult to take electricity to them. It has to be through the cooperatives. Many who are isolated have set up their [word indistinct]. I was looking at the figure that shows that 92 percent of the population is already receiving electrical services. That figure is impressive. A large part of those people live in the country. In other words, no one else has done for the peasants what Cuba has done; and no one has done for Cuba what the peasants have done for it. They have taught us that agriculture must be socialist. There must be large-scale state enterprises that apply science and technology and use the agricultural production cooperatives. This is what the peasants have taught us and we are very grateful for that.

It is not their fault we started a corruption process of those peasants. We did it with the invention that we copied. We invented a copy of the famous peasant free market. That was used in the different historical conditions of another country; there they have their little bit of land within the collective land. I will not intervene, I will not criticize anyone. We have no reason to criticize anyone. What we have to know is what we need to do. That is why this is one of the basic questions, to advance without injustices or trampling on or violating anyone's right. Maybe even some of the great-great-grandchildren of some of those who are here know an independent agricultural worker who may have stuck there generation after generation. If they want to have that piece of land, let them have it.

We have never forced anyone to join a cooperative or a farm. We only apply the law. Sometimes we bother someone if we have to build a dam. We cannot leave him in the bottom of the dam. We will bother someone when we have to build a large canal, or when we have to build a railroad, or highway. Sometimes we have to bother the peasants because that is beyond the will. This is established in all the constitutions of the world—the right to expropriation for reasons of public interest, or social use. This is in all the laws of the world. We never apply it. We have always negotiated with the affected party. If we have to build a highway, we say: Look, we have to build a highway that is very important. We will give you another house elsewhere. We try to satisfy the person we are affecting. We do not tell them: Look, we will give you money. We know that with money he will not buy another apartment. Whenever we affect someone's home, we build them another home. Whoever we bother involuntarily, we try to help them and to ensure that he is satisfied with the negotiation with the state. Not even in those cases does the state apply the law. I think there have only been exceptional cases in which people have sat down and asked for the capital in exchange for an apartment. We have told them: That cannot be done. We will build this and we will apply the law. But generally speaking, with all the operations we have carried out we have said we will not commit any injustices. We will respect that, logically. We would break our promises if we tried to socialize or put in a cooperative everyone who is on that land. It will have to be done through persuasion with the peasant. We would never do it by using the power of the state to reach those objectives, nor do we need to do it that way. We have many years to work the lands of the state enterprises and cooperatives.

Almost 80 percent of the country's land is in the hands of state enterprises. We must overcome difficulties and deficiencies to solve our problems and increase the production of food for our people. That is what we are doing. We are doing this by applying techniques, by applying the most modern techniques available in the world, the most modern techniques we are aware of. That is what we are doing. However, it is very important that the idea behind our rectification process be known. That is very important not only in the country but also

abroad. I heard that in Spain it was something else. Huge headlines covering the front pages. They were thinking that what happened in other countries would happen here, that what was done in other countries would also be done here. Castro purges the Politburo. Well, if we believe what those newspapers are saying then Pepe [not further identified] was purged from the Politburo. They do not know that these comrades are respected and loved by our party and people. As far as they are concerned, assigning other duties to a comrade or relieving him from performing certain duties that are no longer justifiable, is a purge. Two comrades have left and four others have entered. Veiga [Roberto Veiga], the other comrade who left is sitting right here. Instead of a purge, it was a counterpurge. Two left but four entered.

So they talk about a purge and they imagine that the world is coming to an end. As if a terrible situation were unleashing. A terrible situation is the one being faced by the rest of Latin America. Those countries are really facing a terrible situation. They have millions upon millions of children abandoned on the streets, children without parents and without family; an alarming illiteracy rate, countries where not even 40 percent of the children finish sixth grade, much less grammar school; countries where there is prostitution, hunger, malnutrition, and poor health. Over there they talk about Europe's developed capitalism; however, we have to live with the Third World's underdeveloped capitalism. That is what we have to live with. But we are not experiencing what those Third World countries are. They are just checking on us and making plans. They think....[changes thought]

In Miami, there have been people packing their bags, appointing commissions for the day when the Cuban revolution ends. Hey, on that day the island will sink in the ocean! How was that phrased? [audience reply indistinct] It was Jose Marti who said it, right? Before giving up the fight for a free and prosperous fatherland, the island will have to sink in the ocean. That is what he said, right? And a serpent will be born from an eagle's egg. But here, serpents will not be born from eagle's eggs. [applause]

Who do they think they are? Do they think they can come back here looking for buildings? Do they think they can come back to privatize it all, destroy all the state farms and enterprises? Do they think they can come here to privatize schools, hospitals, everything? First of all, they will need a new map. They can no longer direct themselves by where so and so's lands end. Who do they think we are? Who do they think our people are? They know nothing of our history; they do not know what our people and our fatherland are capable of. I think the Hermann crew showed them, and they should have learned their lesson from the Hermann crew. Those men were not armed, yet they did not care if they were confronting one or 20 Coast Guard vessels. They did not care if a carrier was behind the Coast Guard vessel. They will not come in and that is that. And our country is a gigantic Hermann, but with steel. We have enough steel to defend ourselves. As I said earlier, we have our NATO and Warsaw Pact to defend ourselves. We have our armed and organized people, we have our people who follow the doctrine of the war of the people. What do those people think? What do they think we are made of? What kind of blood do they think flows through our veins? As I have said on other occasions, our blood is a marvelous mixture.

Do they think they are going to come here and pick mangos or what? Do not even think about it. The meaning of our work and the agreement reached by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] is precisely expressed in the slogan: The future of our fatherland will be an eternal Baragua! [applause]

Some sharp reporters saw this and have sent more realistic reports abroad. They have captured the meaning of that sentence. And that is not all. On 15 March, the day of the Baragua protest, the date of the congress will be announced. Everyone else is running to hold the congress earlier and we are not speeding anything up. We will hold it on an appropriate date. [pounds podium five times] It may be delayed a few days. We want to give the people of Santiago de Cuba time to finish their theater, but if they do not finish it, we will hold the congress under a circus tent. We will hold the congress under a circus tent. [pounds podium five times; applause] It seems inevitable that the congress will be held in Santiago. They may even have the hotel ready but if they do not, we will set aside some rooms for the delegates from the buildings and apartments that are being built there. We hope the hotel will be ready by then.

Everything was preceded and inspired by Baragua, the most glorious page of our history. It is the highest example of heroism that we have in this hemisphere, in view of those who have abandoned their principles, in view of the Zanjon declaration. Anyone can understand the meaning and effort of our party and state, in what direction it is heading, what perfecting the system means. What is its purpose? It is simply to strengthen the revolution, the party, our institutions, the National Assembly, our mass organizations. Its purpose is to make us stronger, not to make us surrender.

Some people think these people can be made to surrender. [pounds podium three times] Some people believe it. That word was erased from the dictionary a long time ago, since the days of Antonio Maceo. Maceo could not do as much as we can. He was fighting for independence. The revolution has a gigantic project to defend and it has an extraordinary page of history to defend, and it will defend it under any circumstance and amid any obstacle, and amid the most inconceivable difficulties, if necessary. That is what the world has to know about our country.

We are working, all of us, to see what we can and should do to perfect our party, its leadership role, how to do it.

We are working on what we should do with the state to perfect it, how to perfect our state and party organizations.

I was telling the comrades of the electoral commission here that the party has other ideas and they have views on the election of the leaders of the National Assembly. We have several criteria. First of all, we need a comrade who meets all the requirements, including the age requirement, to be able to do the hard work of the National Assembly. The idea of having a woman be vice president was not easy. We had to choose between so many valuable women. Some of them are not in the assembly, others are. The more quality we have in the collective of people, the harder it is to choose because well-trained cadres keep increasing. These cadres are capable of undertaking a task in this regard.

Among other subjects, I was explaining that we are analyzing the creation of closer ties between the government and the National Assembly, a more systematic tie. I talked about inviting the president of the National Assembly to the Executive Committee meetings, where all the problems are analyzed. This way, the National Assembly can be incorporated not just in the legislative tasks but also in the execution of the plans for the development of the country as much as possible. Thus, one could take advantage of the cadres, the experience, and the talent of the assembly. Now, we do not have the conditions. This is one of the things we are also thinking about within the concept of perfecting the state.

Here, we will not do Montesquieu's famous division of power, which is popular again; it is coming out of prehistory again. Here we have a power, it is the people's power and the power of the revolution that exercises different functions. Those functions are independent. They are not independent or free organs of the state. The functions are not carried out independently but instead they have to strictly abide to the laws to do tasks of the government, the National Assembly, the Tribunals, and the Attorney General's Office. But here, we do not participate in the doctrine of the famous division of power. It is hypocritical, because when there is a conservative government—like they have in the United States—they look for the most recalcitrant judges of the United States and assign them to their posts for a period of time. The person who follows him, must remain with the....[changes thought] If a government that is not too conservative comes, it turns out that all the judges are already conservative in their school of thought, doctrine, and political thought. They obey the system. The famous division is a great hypocrisy.

We are more honest. If there is no unity within the state, we have other independent functions that can be carried out. However, there is not a division of power. There is no division of power within the state. It is good to recall this because of the many doctrines that have been heard. The sense of our rectification is, among others, to strengthen the revolution, deepen the revolution. That is the objective, to strengthen and deepen it under the conditions we are currently living in, and in the world we are currently living in it is more necessary than ever. It is necessary to accelerate the process of rectification, which we have not stopped worked on. However, a lot still remains to be done. That is why I take advantage of this opportunity.

I think there are representatives from the press here. Some of them understood very well the sense of our Central Committee meeting. Others were confused, and who knows how many things they thought because they do not know our country. What can we do about it? We are a small country here in the Caribbean. Although I think our country has great merits, it is not a great power. When we do something, no one finds out about it, even if we have been doing it for years. When they feel like it, what we do even seems like something new to them. This moment is very important; it is a very decisive moment in the life, history, of our country and of the world. We have very sacred banners to defend, and we know how to defend them until the final consequences. Do not misunderstand. Here in the tropics, in the Caribbean island, things are different, and those who do not know it, better know it.

I think that today we have taken an important step in the election of the new leadership of the National Assembly. I will not praise the candidate after he has been elected. However, I think his biography is even too synthetic. I remember when Juanito was with the General Staff of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, at the time of the Angolan war in 1975. First, there was [name indistinct] and he went to Angola. Then there was Acevedo [not further identified] and he went to Angola. Then Escalona was there. I witnessed how he worked during that complicated time and an enormous effort had to be made in which tens of thousands of men went to work there every few weeks in the General Staff. When I read the biography, that was not stated. Everyone has seen and discussed it here.

A comrade from the electoral commission was speaking with much enthusiasm and praise about his work in the Justice Ministry. Others spoke about his prestige, his role in the trial of Case No. 1 [the trial against Division General Arnaldo Ochoa]. Some mentioned how he was known by the population and the respect and prestige he had. I am certain that this lesson—just like Juanito and Zoila—will be very well received by all the people.

This does not mean that we do not greatly appreciate and have enormous esteem for Comrade Severo Aguirre del Cristo, who is an old militant. Severo was a Communist when many of those present here were not yet born and he remained faithful and served the revolution. He says he is 78 years old. No one believes him. [laughter] He looks strong and healthy. Nature was kind to him, generous to him. He is 78 years old and he has been a revolutionary most of his life. He has fulfilled the tasks the revolution has assigned to him, such as administrative, political, and diplomatic responsibilities, as well as the National Assembly. What are they going to say

now—that we have purged Severo? The headline would read: Castro Purges President of the National Assembly! They blame Castro for everything. I am not worried about it, but they have the style and concept of personalizing everything that happens. They also attribute merits to me—hardly ever though—but sometimes they attribute to an individual the merit that is exclusively that of the people. They, Westerners as a rule, have this bad habit in their head. They say: Castro made and unmade. He purged and unpurged. I want to express in front of everyone, in front of those we know and in front of strangers, the great appreciation, the great consideration, and great respect that we feel for Comrade Severo, who was the acting president of the National Assembly. [applause]

The step we have taken today is an important one. It strengthens us and it will prepare us. I really liked what Juanito said and the way he said it. I liked the way he said that if the aggression should come, then we will pick up our rifle to defeat the enemy. I liked that. He said what is undoubtedly going to happen if they attack us. We will defeat the enemy. There is no doubt about that. [applause] Even if they use all their might and occupy our territory, they will find no peace in this beehive. They will find nothing; everything will be a battlefront if the enemy should attack us. That is how convinced and determined we are.

I do not usually say it, I usually only say the slogan; I do not ask them to believe us, all I say is wait and see what will happen—that is what I am telling those who are packing their bags—wait and see what happens. Those who believe that the revolution is crumbling like a meringue, just wait and see what happens. We never say these things because we do not want people to think we are boasting, but we are going to crush the aggressors of our fatherland like cockroaches; we are going to crush them even if we have to crush them one by one. But we do not say that, we only say: Wait and see what happens. But we do know what is going to happen. (?They are going to die); there is no doubt about this.

I liked Comrade Juanito's brief but moving words. He was optimistic and said: and we will again meet at the assembly and we will continue to make laws. He must be optimistic and he must believe that he is bulletproof. Perhaps he has a bulletproof vest. Juanito, we will return; perhaps you will return; the eternal and immortal people will return.

Socialism or death! Fatherland or death, we will win! [applause]

Radio Reports Castro Speech

FL2002191990 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Excerpts] With the presence of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and Army General Raul Castro, the National Assembly of the People's Government has elected Comrade Juan Escalona Reguera as president and Comrade Zoila Benitez de Mendoza for the post of vice president. [passage omitted]

After the results were made known and received with lengthy applause, the new leaders of the Cuban parliament took their seats, and Comrade Escalona expressed to the plenary session his pledge to work hard to meet the goals and defend the revolution and socialism. Following the president's words, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro spoke, reiterating the need for unity to prevail in our people and our party.

[Begin Castro recording] We will not permit anything that damages in the least this fundamental strength of the people. This is very clear. I think even five-year-old children can understand this. I think that two and three-year-olds can understand why we need unity, why we have a party.

Now, among the advantages there are also disadvantages, and those disadvantages are the ones we must know how to overcome in our rectification process. However, the solution must always be based on these principles. And when you want to work....[changes thought] It is not new. I said it before the Central Committee when we were analyzing the Politburo's proposals. Do not think of spectacular things. Let us leave the spectacular things aside. Let us do a lot; let us work a lot and promise little. [end recording]

At this time our commander in chief is still speaking at the extraordinary session of the National Assembly of the People's Government, which is being held at the Palace of Conventions.

Havana 'To Unblock' Angolan Troop Withdrawal

FL2002200590 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1855 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] It was officially announced today in Luanda that Cuba and Angola have decided to unblock the withdrawal of Cuban internationalist troops from Angola starting 25 February. During a news conference given at the 4 February Airport, the delegation heads of the two countries said they would hold the U.S. Government responsible for any new attack by the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] armed group against the Cuban military.

Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat, emphasized: If the U.S. Government wishes it so, we are certain UNITA will not attack the Cuban troops again because the authorities in Washington are the ones who supply military equipment to that subversive group. Risquet added that Cuba as well as Angola hope the White House is sensible enough to use its important influence on UNITA—an influence it has gained by supplying the group militarily—so the withdrawal process is not suspended again. He also said the suspension,

which was caused by the death of ten Cuban soldiers, already signifies a one-month-delay in the withdrawal timetable agreed on in New York in December 1988 between Cuba and Angola, as part of the peace agreements for southwest Africa. Risquet said the United States, by supporting UNITA, is the cause of this delay and is also responsible for attempting to create a television program beamed to Cuba that constitutes a brutal violation of our sovereignty and all international regulations regarding this matter.

The Cuban leader denied that this bilateral meeting is substituting for the next meeting of the tripartite commission for verification of fulfillment of the New York agreements—a meeting originally scheduled for mid-January but postponed at the request of South Africa and the United States, which is participating as an observer. Although Risquet does not know the date for the next tripartite meeting, the seventh meeting since the signing of the agreements in New York, he said Cuba and Angola are interested in holding it as soon as possible to analyze the problem that arose with the suspension of the withdrawal. The United States and South Africa gave different reasons for postponing the meeting. We do not know if their reasons are true or made up. They have been postponing that meeting ever since the date was set for the January meeting. Risquet added: It was said that the meeting would be held on 5 March and then on 12 March, but the exact date is still unknown.

The Angolan Foreign Minister, Pedro de Castro van Dunem, who headed his country's delegation in the talks with Cuba, criticized the negative attitude of the United States with regard to the peace process in southwest Africa, especially regarding the Angolan conflict. Van Dunem said Washington must guarantee the continuation of the Cuban troop withdrawal without attacks from UNITA and its members. He also reaffirmed his country's and Cuba's willingness to scrupulously fulfill the bilaterally approved timetable for the withdrawal.

During the talks, which started yesterday in Luanda, the delegations also discussed matters related to the civilian cooperation given by Cuba to Angola in various sectors. Official sources reported that there was also an exchange of information on the current situation in the two states.

Minister Discusses Plans To Disrupt TV Marti

FL2102022490 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0047 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Report by Juan Carlos Roque Garcia on the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Good evening, Cuba. We are a small country. We love peace and place great significance on the role of telecommunications in the improvement of the world we share. At the International Telecommunications Union meeting our country has expressed its identification with the letter and spirit of the agreement regulating this activity and its respect for the nonrenounceable principle of the peaceful use of telecommunications, which is proclaimed by the world community.

Nevertheless, we necessarily have made it very clear that all action undertaken by the Government of the United States as a provocation and aggression against our country will always receive a strong response, with the measure and magnitude it deserves.

I am making this introduction because today's segment is on the remarks made by Communications Minister Manuel Castillo Rebasa in an interview with Sonia Mora from Radio Ciudad de la Habana, which we picked up on "Exclusivo" through our radio tracking services.

[Begin recording] [Mora] What can you tell us about interference with the signal?

[Castillo] The U.S. Government has truly and shamefully decided to broadcast an anti-Cuban, aggressive television signal to us, and our country is preparing to give a resounding response in defense of our sovereignty. For this purpose, our technicians and engineers have undertaken a titanic task along with the communications comrades of the armed forces, who are participating with us in this important activity. We have had to construct and install telecommunications means in a very short time. We have had to establish technical safeguards [guardias tecnicas]. In brief, we have had to increase our capacities to be ready when this aggressive television station begins its broadcasts so we can opportunely respond to it and silence it. The task given to us by our party, our government, is to prevent the television signal from entering our country. [end recording]

Your were listening to Communications Minister Manuel Castillo Rebasa.

Before concluding this contact that comes to you from the news services of the radio station in the capital, I would like to say that if the United States continues its objectives, Cuba will not feel obligated to apply the norms established by radio communications regulations and the international telecommunications agreement, although we regret the effects our response may have in the United States.

This warning has been made clear on several occasions. The Tele Marti project constitutes an escalation in the worsening bilateral situation between Cuba and the United States, and only the aggressor is responsible for the consequences.

Ministry Denounces Close Proximity of U.S. Ships

PA2102023290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2339 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Havana, 20 Feb (EFE)—The Cuban Armed Forces Ministry today denounced the presence of a U.S. amphibious assault ship and a helicopter carrier in waters close to the island.

According to the newspaper BASTION—the Cuban Armed Forces' publication—they are the amphibious assault ship "LHA-4 Nassau" and the helicopter carrier "LPH-9 Guam".

According to the newspaper, on 18 February, the "Nassau" approached the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo, located more than 900 km east of Havana, the occupation of which is considered illegal by the Cuban authorities.

BASTION added: Meanwhile, the helicopter carrier "Guam" is sailing north of Cuba, "presumably to remain in the Gulf of Mexico or Caribbean area."

One week ago, the same newspaper accused the U.S. Government of creating tension in waters close to Cuba by announcing the arrival of new warships at the naval base in Guantanamo.

On that occasion, the Cuban authorities said 11 U.S. ships had anchored in that bay, located east of the island, including the battleship "Wisconsin" and the amphibious "Wasp-class" assault ship, the most modern of its type in the U.S. Navy.

Fidel Castro Meets With Mexican Senator

FL2002152590 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the government and the Council of State, received Senator Porfirio Munoz Ledo, a prominent Mexican political figure who is visiting our country. The meeting gave rise to an exchange of views on the international political situation, especially concerning the crisis Latin America is currently experiencing. Fidel Castro explained to the visitor the efforts Cuba is making to overcome the obstacles presented by the international environment and the hostility of the U.S. Government towards our country. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and Manuel Pineiro, head of the America Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, participated in the talks.

Sugarcane Milling Delays Cause Production Drop

PA2102043190 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0245 GMT 18 Feb 90

[Text] Havana, 17 Feb (EFE)—It was reported today that the Cuban sugarcane harvest will be unfavorably affected by delays in the milling of harvested sugarcane, the harvesting machines' low yield, and sowing delays.

According to the Cuban National Information Agency (AIN), Cienfuegos Province (the island's center) faces the most critical milling delays, which especially affect sucrose production. Other provinces suffering sugarcane milling delays are Santiago de Cuba (East) and Sancti Spiritu (center), which are experiencing milling delays with more than 10 percent of the sugarcane received.

Also included in the negative balance is the country's largest sugar factory, "Uruguay," which is experiencing milling delays with nearly 29 percent of its sugar cane. Other factories that are also affected by milling delays with mechanically harvested, fresh sugarcane are "Julio Antonio Mena," "Nicaragua," and "Guatemala."

Camaguey Province also has a low production of mechanically harvested sugar cane, AIN adds.

The average mechanized cut in this province was only 8,300 arrobas—2,000 less than estimated. Only the "Manuel Martinez Prieto" production center in the Havana Province exceeded estimates, by 12 percent.

* Increased Emphasis on Food Production Noted

32480237

[Editorial Report] The Havana Spanish-language newspaper TRABAJADORES of 9 January reports on page 5 that following Fidel Castro's meeting with the country's first party secretaries, the Ministry of Agriculture carried out an inspection of the work being done at various agricultural enterprises in Havana Province.

A statement by the minister defined the strategy: "We have a more important commitment than meeting production goals; it is giving food to people." Where a delay or difficulty was apparent, an immediate solution was sought without accepting excuses or postponements.

The group visited construction projects for housing workers, who will stabilize a labor force which has traditionally been insufficient, projects for workers' lodgings and the camps for EJT [Youth Labor Army] members who make a significant contribution to agricultural work in Havana. The minister emphasized that under no circumstances could a worker be transferred from a construction brigade because this is the top priority.

Another review of the labor force will occur in February. One director of an enterprise said, "We did not do all that we should have done, even if we did all that we could," but the current emphasis is on doing things well and on time.

The article notes that it is necessary to talk with the workers and the union about what should be done at each location in order to eliminate everything related to work standards and organization which slow productivity.

As part of this offensive, in addition to planting crops so that production goals are met, it is also necessary for us to cultivate and harvest all that is planted. The collection process must be carried out so that nothing is lost in the field, during shipment, in the distribution network, and at the market.

* Tourism To Receive Top Priority in 1990

32480236

[Editorial Report] The Havana Spanish-language newspaper TRABAJADORES of 9 January reports on page 5 that

tourism is among the high priority objectives for the current year as it is a direct means of obtaining hard currency.

UNECA [Union of Caribbean Construction Enterprises] plans to build 4,654 new hotel rooms for tourists during the current year at an estimated cost of 250 million pesos. In 1989, 2,019 hotel rooms were built at a cost of 186.8 million pesos which represents a 101-percent fulfillment of the production goal for that year.

Varadero and Holguin were among the areas which showed the best results in the UNECA effort to become the most productive construction force in the country.

The enterprise also completed construction of airports and hundreds of dwellings in Angola last year.

Haiti

Two Ministers Resign; Appointments Announced

FL2002164290 Port-au-Prince L'UNION in French 17-19 Feb 90 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Information Directorate of the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Coordination announces that following the resignation of the ministers of Information, Culture, and Coordination; and of Social Affairs; and considering that they must be replaced: Marie Denise Jean is appointed Minister of Information, Culture, and Coordination; Camille D. Sylaire is appointed Minister of Social Affairs; Rosemarie Nazon is appointed secretary general of the Council of Ministers, with the rank of minister; Yves Anglade is appointed director general of the Maritime and Navigation Service of Haiti (Semanah); and Roger Cazeau is appointed director general of the National Port Authority (APN)—by decree dated 16 February.

Also, by presidential commissions dated 16 February: Rene Maximilien is appointed APN deputy director general; Fritz Joseph is appointed APN administrative director; Reynald Leconte is appointed APN controller general; Roger Courtois is appointed APN director of exploitation; Frantz Blanchet is appointed APN financial director; Gerard L. Xavier is appointed APN technical director; Robert McIntosh is appointed APN director of equipment maintenance and handling; Gabriel Painson is appointed APN director of security; and Geralus Monde is appointed APN director of cabotage.

Port-au-Prince, 16 February 1990

Director of Information.

CEP Says Government Must Agree to Observers

FL2002203490 Port-au-Prince Radio National in Creole 1200 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Excerpts] [Announcer] [passage omitted] The members of the CEP [Permanent Electoral Council] have taken a position in favor of unfettered, honest, democratic, and peaceful elections in Haiti, according to their latest statements to our reporter Louis Seize France at the radio newsroom. France interviewed CEP Treasurer Dr. Jacques Jovin.

[France] In an interview he granted us, CEP Treasurer Dr. Jacques J. Jovin said: We have no problem with foreign observers coming to see how elections unfold in Haiti for we are not doing anything crooked whatsoever. However, we must have the government's approval.

[Begin Jovin recording] [passage omitted] Because we of the CEP have always known we were going to hold honest elections, we have no problems with allowing whoever would like to come observe to do so. [passage omitted] We are not here to favor anyone at all. We are here to do the work in a completely honest manner, and I do not think we have any problems whatsoever in allowing anyone at all to come watch what we do.

Many sectors are expressing their opinions on this matter of observers. Everyone should be aware, however, that there are a number of modalities to be respected. Such things are not done just like that! The CEP has no legal right to ask for observers. For foreign observers to come and be present at these elections, the government itself must agree to their presence and, at the same time, it should consult the CEP to obtain the CEP's opinion on the matter. It is a fact that this is an action taken at the level of governments. [end recording]

[Announcer] We remind listeners that in a 31 January news conference held at the National Palace by the president of the military government, the president said it was up to the CEP itself to take a poll to see if it could accept having foreign observers participate in the elections. [passage omitted]

The Haitian political class has several different ideas on the matter of observers. Some are in favor and others against, while still others even make the presence of observers a condition for their participation in elections. However, the CEP members ask that a national consensus be reached among all these sectors so the nation's honor, and democracy—democratic principles—can be respected in Haiti. Listeners will have the opportunity to hear this interview in its entirety on 21 February from six to seven o'clock [PM] on our Electoral Perspectives program. [passage omitted]

Opposition Groups Express Views on Elections

Bourjolly: Elections Impossible

FL2002212690 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Max Bourjolly, the Unified Party of Haitian Communists' [PUCH's] second in command, one of six opposition members expelled by General Avril's government 20 January, returned to Haiti on 19 February at approximately 2010 on an Air France flight. In his first statements to the press at Mais Gate International Airport, Bourjolly said that like the majority of

political leasers in Haiti, he felt elections are not possible under the general. He also said he participated in several actions in France to denounce the presence of Duvalierists still in Haiti. Bourjolly believes there is not really enough security in Haiti for his return, however, he is obliged to rely on the general's amnesty to return and wage the struggle for it is easier to do so from within Haiti. Bourjolly called on all the other prominent figures outside Haiti to return and pressure the government. Let us listen to Bourjolly.

[Begin recording] [Bourjolly] I do not have any guarantee. The only guarantee I have is his word that he has rescinded all measures and there is an amnesty. And that is enough for me. So I have returned.

[Reporter] Do you feel secure?

[Bourjolly] Security is a permanent problem in Haiti so I do not think I am any less secure than before. It is simply that the government decreed an amnesty and rescinded the measures, and I have returned. And I am going to take my normal place in the battle we have been waging for unity of action and a credible alternative.

[Reporter] And how is your morale?

[Bourjolly] I am fine, first because I received a very warm welcome when I arrived abroad. I participated in many actions taken in France to make the reality of Haiti known and to denounce the Duvaliers' presence in France [sentence as heard].

[Reporter] Were you tortured when you were arrested?

[Bourjolly] No, there was no torture.

[Reporter] Mr. Max, the French Government took several measures against the Haitian Government. Do you not think that your return might lead the French Government to believe everything is all right now, and that they might rescind the measures they took against Gen. Avril's government?

[Bourjolly] No, I do not think so. I think everyone who is presently out of Haiti should return to pressure Gen. Avril. Staying out of the country will not solve the Avril problem. The battle is being waged inside Haiti. You know you cannot wage it from outside. It is normal for us to return.

[Reporter] And what is your opinion of the elections that are going to be held?

[Bourjolly] Elections are not possible under Gen. Avril.

[Reporter] What did you say, Mr. Bourjolly?

[Bourjolly] Elections are not possible under Gen. Avril. [end recording]

[Announcer] Max Bourjolly spoke to reporters after 31 days in exile in France under pressure from the president of the military government, Gen. Prosper Avril. He said it appears Max Bourjolly was the only one lucky enough to escape the punches the government's soldiers delivered on 20 January. [passage omitted]

MNPH Says Time Insufficient

FL2002200490 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] The Haitian Nationalistic and Progressive Movement [MNPH] headed by Alphonse Lahens has sent a letter to the members of CEP that says: The MNPH's Central Committee hereby submits to you this letter with its suggestions for you to examine with a view, to the extent possible, toward contributing to the realization of impeccable elections.

The MNP-28 [name as heard] feels that there is not enough time to register the voters. It says that the time is insufficient for the following reasons: First, there are prior registration formalities that are of primordial importance for the indisputable transparency of the elections themselves. Second, says the MNPH, the voters in the rural areas, who make up the great majority of the overall electorate, must be given enough time to obtain or make copies of or reconstitute, depending on the case, the valid identification documents required by the electoral law. Third, it is difficult for peasant voters to meet this requirement for they must not only find and take time from their daily, very full, schedules—schedules required by their agricultural activities—but they must also travel many kilometers across the mountains by foot or donkey to reach voter registration offices. Thus, this is a real problem.

The MNPH also says other things regarding the electoral process. You will be able to hear these things in our next newscast. In any case, the MNPH concludes that it remains understood the calendar put out by the CEP should, as regards the legislative and presidential elections, remain unchanged. This means that Alphonse Lahens, the head of the MNPH, says there should be no changes made in the electoral calendar. [sentence as heard].

[Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole at 1000 GMT on 20 February in a similar report on the letter adds: "In view of these considerations, MNPH allows itself to suggest to CEP, without this being any kind of ultimatum, that it prolong the obligatory registration formalities, which could perhaps last a maximum of three or four months. This extension could run over into the period set aside for holding the elections for Administrative Councils for the Communal Sections and, if need be, the municipal elections. These elections could be held later without changing the rest of the election calendar. It remains understood that the CEP's published calendar would be respected rigorously as regards the holding of the legislative and presidential elections, the dates of which would remain unchanged."]

ANDP Urges a Halt

FL2002225890 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Excerpt] The National Alliance for Democracy and Progress, ANDP, like the National Committee of the Congress of Democratic Movements, Conacom, has asked CEP to halt election preparations to evaluate the nation's current policy. This, is in an open letter the ANDP has sent to the president and members of the management council of the CEP.

The ANDP says it received the CEP's 14 February letter in which the CEP says outright that the electoral calendar will not be changed. To support this position CEP said the calendar is the result of a national consensus based on the polling of representative samples. The arguments put forth by CEP to support this thesis make a clear distinction between the voting population and the political parties.

The ANDP says in its open letter: We, a group made up of three responsible political parties, have voters behind us. We represent a sizeable portion of the Haitian population and what we are saying here holds for all the other parties too, even if certain of them say they will not participate in elections under the current political conditions.

ANDP continues: Where did your consensus come from? Very early on, most of the political parties proposed several different calendars. Regarding the method of polling a small sample of the population to reach decisions, the scientific value of this way of proceeding has been greatly criticized. We would like to remind CEP that the results of such operations always depend on many factors that can quickly change, such as time and the political context of the moment. The situation has changed completely since 20 January when the state of siege entered the picture, as well as all the expulsions, abuse, and crooked manipulations against certain political leaders and many other peaceable citizens. It seems odd—and is also impossible—for CEP to continue to function as if nothing were wrong; as if the life of CEP had nothing to do with the nation's political life.

ANDP adds: Even had there been a consensus that we of the ANDP did not know about, we think that after the fatal case of the 20 January events, such a consensus has fallen apart—that is, there has come to be division. We would like to remind CEP that this comes from nine institutions in the spirit of the Constitution following a forum in which the political parties played a large role. Thus, CEP's responsibility goes beyond technical and administrative tasks. CEP's fundamental role is a political one. After all these considerations, you will understand, members of CEP, that the ANDP's position is not based on air. The ANDP is maintaining its position ever more staunchly. We would like to ask CEP to stop all activities to examine the new political situation with wisdom and patriotism. This would allow CEP to keep from falling into the "I am in seventh heaven" role of the Haitian Moliere [allusion to a statement by Jean Gilbert, president of the second CEP, following the 17 January 1988 elections. Gilbert had expressed satisfaction over 17 January 1988 elections].

We are aware of the fact that the CEP's mission is extremely delicate and we fully agree that CEP has a role of capital importance to play in the transition, says the ANDP. We are not interested in entering into polemics or quarreling with CEP, nor do we constantly issue statements. However, from time to time and according to how the political situation is evolving, whenever we deem it necessary we will inform the Haitian people of our position regarding what is occurring in Haiti.

This is a press release from the ANDP, an open letter ANDP has sent CEP, and is signed by Marc Louis Bazin for the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti; Dejean Belizaire for the National Patriotic Movement of 28 November; and Serge Gilles for the Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti. We remind listeners that these three political parties compose the ANDP. [passage omitted]

Panpra Calls for Consensus

FL2002171590 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 0950 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Excerpt] The executive bureau of the Serge Gilles Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti, Panpra, in its first "Letter From Haiti" for 1990 says that a national consensus is necessary today and more indispensable than ever.

Recalling recent events, which allegedly allow one to foresee that General Avril is seeking to retain power or install a president who will take orders from him, Panpra sees in the strategy attempted by the government a certainty that the government will be able to impose its candidates in the Administrative Councils for the Communal Sections, the communal committees, and the legislative chambers, within the framework of an election masquerade.

In this context, Panpra wonders about the options available to the opposition, which are either to go to elections as set up by the Permanent Electoral Council, with no prior conditions regarding the security of voters and candidates and respect for civic rights—which would undoubtedly lead to elections like those of 17 January 1988—or to demand that Gen. Avril step down and a civilian transition government be set up. [passage omitted]

Father Aristide Calls for General Consensus

FL2002161290

[Editorial Report] Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French at 0950 GMT on 16 February carries a three-minute report in which, after a long silence, Father [Jean Bertrand] Aristide once again speaks out to call for a general consensus among the political parties.

Father Aristide, speaking in Creole, states his views in a poem. Father Aristide calls upon "all democratic forces, all antimacoute political forces, and nondemagogic ecclesiastical forces to come together so we can nationalistically put together a lucid, cooperative assembly." He further says: "Politicians within alliances and outside of alliances, you have two alternatives. If you divide, you have had it."

He continues by asking the politicians "to lower the flag of pride to run up the flagpole a single lucid unity." He concludes by saying that it is already late. "If you wait any longer, it will be too late. Good luck."

Salinas Describes Drug Summit as 'Encouraging'

PA1602222490 Paris AFP in Spanish 2115 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Tetecala, Mexico, 16 Feb (AFP)—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari today described the results of the Cartagena summit as "very encouraging, because it proved that no no nation will be able to struggle against the international drug problem and defeat drug traffickers on its own."

Salinas, who was interviewed by reporters in Tetecala, 150 km south of Mexico City, about the drug summit held in northern Colombia on 15 February, in which the presidents of Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, and the United States participated, stressed: "We will give solid support" for the efforts by the various governments "to struggle against the world cancer that drug trafficking has become."

However, Salinas added that "Mexicans alone are responsible for fighting drug traffickers in Mexico."

A large part of the Colombian cocaine that enters the United States goes through Mexico.

Mexican authorities have confiscated 40 tons of cocaine—a record amount—during the 14 months of President Salinas' government.

Mexico is also a large heroin and marijuana producer.

According to Salinas, the Cartagena summit was "very positive. Its results show that we are heading in the right direction, because the participants at the summit admitted that fighting only one aspect of the drug trafficking problem is not the solution."

PRC Delegation Meets With Senators

FL1602032290 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0233 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Feb (NOTIMEX)—A delegation from the PRC National People's Congress, led by its Chairman [title as received] Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme, today visited the Mexican Senate and expressed interest in strengthening ties of friendship and cooperation. Nicolas Reynes Berezaluce, secretary of the Great Commission of the Mexican Senate, received the PRC legislative delegation and stressed that Mexico is consistent in its foreign policy regarding what it thinks and what it does. He stated that Mexico has always respected the foreign policy principles of nonintervention, the self-determination of peoples, and peaceful solutions to disputes.

Ngawang Jigme expresssed his desire to strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation with the Mexican Congress and offered the PRC's support for any initiative the congress may undertake to promote world peace and strengthen cooperation between nations. Moreover, the Chinese legislator told the press that the situation in his country is now stable after the violence that occurred around the middle of last year.

He stressed that the PRC's foreign policy of peace and independence will continue unchanged, and specified that the policy of reform and opening will not be altered, either. However, he warned that Tibetan independence is impossible since Tibet is an inalienable part of the PRC.

PRC To Keep Current System

FL1702030890 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0016 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] Mexico City, 16 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme, chairman of the Nationalities Commission of the PRC National Peoples Congress, today said that his country will keep its political structure and socialist system. After meeting with the Guillermo Jimenez Morales, president of the Great Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, the Chinese legislator repeated that the more than 1.1 billion Chinese have agreed to continue with the form of life that currently prevails. He denied that his country's government fears isolation after the political opening in Europe.

The Chinese delegation later met with Hector Hugo Olivares Ventura, senior official of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] National Executive Committee, with whom they agreed to keep up an exchange of information on common problems like demographic explosion and food production.

Authorities Scrutinized Over Drug Issue

PA1702232590 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 5 Feb 90 p 7

[Report by Humberto Rios Navarrete]

[Text] Hermosillo, Sonora, 4 Feb—Up to now, the state government has not published any report listing drug traffickers' confiscated property or its whereabouts, in a place where only last year federal authorities—Army and the Attorney General's Office—wiped out 44,531 poppy plants, destroyed 41,023 plantations and 500,000 kg of marijuana, and confiscated 34 tons of cocaine.

Also, 600 kg of opium and 5,928 firearms were confiscated, 98 clandestine laboratories were dismantled, and 10,754 people were arrested and charged for crimes against public health.

Archbishop Carlos Quintero Arce is of the opinion that it is urgent that land be distributed, otherwise "the people of Sonora are easy prey to drug traffickers." He also forecasts: "If we import 9 million tons of basic food products each year, it means that the land is no longer being sowed, which could force many of our peasants to earn money through drugs."

No one from state government wants to speak out, beginning with the governor, who is said to "have a very tight agenda." Neither will the governor's secretary, nor the attorney general, nor the deputy secretary for agricultural affairs. All their assistants say the same: "They

have no time; they are not in." Meanwhile, at the media office they say: "We are here to serve you."

The opposition agrees that the governor, by not pressing for confiscated land to be turned over, seems to be shying away from the problem. Armando Rivera Palacios, delegate for the Agrarian Reform Secretariat (SRA), said that as of July 1989, about 50,000 hectares "of all types of land" were distributed, where drugs had once been grown.

Yet more than 10,000 peasants are waiting for land to be transferred to them based on files already approved, according to SRA's Julian Luzanilla Contreras, secretary general of the league of agrarian and trade union communities.

Aside from an alleged health problem, Governor Rodolfo Feliz Valdez is amid a turmoil of criticism. While the opposition and the church hierarchy complain about police arbitrarities, the authorites prefer to remain silent.

Archbishop Quintero Arce recognizes "the full struggle" against drug trafficking, but also says that the actions have gone beyond the real intentions, going so far, he says, that certain youths seek refuge in his church.

There is much arbitrariness, he said.

PAN [National Action Party] has a thick file of all the misdeeds committed by the Judicial Police, especially the state's, "but no matter how many times we report these cases, the government does nothing," PAN state leader Ramon Corral says.

The Alliance Against Drug Trafficking program is pure demagogy," PAN deputy Francisco Pavlovich says. "Heading that campaign is Dona Josefina de Grande, Felix Valdez' neighbor in the Pitic neighborhood, a respectable job for the lady. However, why does the governor himself not head it? Does he lack the courage?" asks the federal legislator.

"A state through which drugs once merely passed has become a producer and consumer state," reflects Ramon Corral Ayala, who then asks, "What happens to the confiscated property? Up to now the governor has not even given a list; he has not even made public any reference to the drug traffickers' properties."

Referring to the obscure origins of inexplicable wealth, the archbishop deplores the situation. "I wish the authorities were not so closely linked to drug traffickers....I mention no names because that is not my position; but there must be people with inexplicable wealth in several parts of the state," he says.

Are there many people with illegally acquired wealth in Sonora?—we ask the person who has praised private initiative in many ways.

"I do not judge people, but their wealth is not only illegally acquired, it is also criminally acquired. I do not know who they are, but whoever obtains illegal profits is not acting right. Nevertheless, the consumers cannot evade the issue either, because you cannot call them innocent people...."

Would you request an investigation of officials and families with inexplicable wealth?

"That is being done throughout the country. Two corrupt officials were discovered in Baja California....Look, I know that Coparmex [Employers Confederation of the Mexican Republic] now has another philosophy. Now there is talk about the wealth of love and not about the love of wealth...."

Do you mean that businessmen are no longer earning a profit?

"I believe that their philosophy is changing. This is positive for our country's betterment."

What is your view of the wealth that is reportedly the result of drug trafficking, which Adalberto Rosas has referred to on many occasions? Would you agree to carrying out raids in the residential areas he suspects?

The archbishop thinks about this and smiles.

"Yes, I know Adalberto. Sometimes the innocent pay for the culprits. No? You know that members of the Judicial Police instill fear. For example, Benjamin Hill checkpoint has judicial policemen with no education."

Jose Luis Larrazolo, regional commander of the Federal Judicial Police in Sonora, asserts that the controversial inspection post—"not checkpoint," he corrects—is the zone where more drugs have been detected. He showed packages of heroin discovered on two women, one of them pregnant, coming from Guerrero State.

What about Deputy Adalberto Rosas' statements?

Larrazolo solemnly states: "I think Mr. Rosas is just like any other person. He is a respected citizen, but if he files formal charges it will be an entirely different matter. If he ever does it we will carry out an investigation, regardless of the consequences. However, the deputy gave a statement—he did not make an accusation—and that is what caused the confusion. He has recklessly issued statements, but he has no evidence."

We say: Adalberto Rosas specifically mentioned Attorney General Suarez Valenzuela, who was a municipal official in Cajeme precisely during the drug trafficking boom in the zone; and when the [Rafael] Caro Quintero and Felix Gallardo properties were discovered.

The commander explains: "We have received the cooperation of the State Judicial Police in the antidrug struggle and, I repeat, if Deputy Rosas provides us specific information on specific charges, we will carry out an investigation regardless of the consequences."

PRI Member Killed, Another Kidnapped in Morelia

FL2002191290 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1710 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Morelia (Mexico), 20 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Official sources have reported that a member of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) was killed and another one kidnapped while political groups blocked one of the main roads to the area.

Andres Villasenor Diaz, PRI member and cacique of the Turicato Township, was killed by a group of unknown people within the framework of postelectoral violence taking place in this western state.

According to the state attorney's office, Villasenor's attackers have not been identified yet. He was killed during an ambush allegedly placed by his political adversaries. The cacique had been accused of killing a policeman, a member of the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), at the Tacambaro City Hall.

Villasenor Diaz was brother of former local Deputy Maria Villasenor Diaz and of Turicato Mayor Rodolfo Villasenor Diaz, all identified as caciques.

Meanwhile, Jesus Nieto Villegas, also a PRI member, was kidnapped by PRD members who protested that their PRI opponents recovered the mayoral post in the Chilchota Township.

The Zamora-Carapan road, one of the main roads in the state, was blocked by PRD followers for six hours.

Postelectoral violence in the area has already claimed tens of victims during clashes between PRI and PRD members who allege their parties won in various municipalities.

According to the state interior under secretariat, the PRD is occupying 27 city halls, in which parallel administrations are operating.

The PRD turned over the city halls in Susupuato and Tzitzio yesterday, after the state congress' investigative commission, composed of 24 deputies from all parties, ordered the buildings cleared. Nevertheless, there is still resistance to handing over the city halls of Paracuaro, Irimbro, Coalcoman, Aporo, Tlalpujahua, Brisenas, Tacambaro, Turicato, Jungapeo, Apatzingan, Jacona, and Benito Juarez.

Costa Rica

Nicaraguan Official Notes Possibility of Summit

PA2002142290 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1210 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Nicaraguan Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco has announced there is a possibility of holding a Central American presidential summit in Nicaragua. Tinoco arrived in Costa Rica on 19 Februry and met with Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto to discuss various bilateral issues, including the possibility of a presidential meeting in Nicaragua. However, he said, one must take into consideration several situations that are prevailing in the area: for example, the political changes and several transfers of government taking place in several nations of the area.

The Nicaraguan vice foreign minister is in Costa Rica to present a book he wrote on the Central American peace efforts. The ceremony will be held this afternoon, and he is availing himself of the visit to meet and discuss various subjects with the Costa Rican foreign minister. Tinoco is not planning to meet with representatives of the Social Christian Unity Party, scheduled to assume power on 8 May, because his visit is cultural.

Madrigal and Tinoco evaluated the economic and social situation in Central America. They agreed that an era of intense negotiations, where greater economic and social development is being sought, is occurring in Central America. In the face of events taking place in Eastern Europe, the two officials feel that Central America will have to fight for its interests and capture the world's attention because the goal is a lasting peace.

Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto reiterated Costa Rica's hopes the Nicaraguan elections will be clean and honest. Costa Rica also hopes the outcome of the elections will be honored by all parties so reconciliation and lasting peace will lead to progress in Nicaragua.

Madrigal Nieto also said Costa Rica hopes to contribute to a dialogue between the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas so all of Central America will follow suit.

El Salvador

Government To Resume Relations With Nicaragua

PA2002215390 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Report by Maria de los Angeles Tenorio]

[Text] [Tenorio] Our country will renew diplomatic relations with Nicaragua following the 25 February elections, Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Orlando Valdivieso revealed today. He also revealed that three members of the Central Electoral Council [CSE] will be in Managua to observe electoral developments.

According to Deputy Minister Valdivieso, following the 25 February elections in Nicaragua and the subsequent beginning of a democratic process there, relations with that country will return to normal—as they were prior to November 1989, when the Salvadoran Government unilaterally suspended diplomatic relations.

Deputy Minister Valdivieso said President Cristiani's government feels pleased because elections will be held in Nicaragua, adding that the government will support the new democracy in that country—either Daniel Ortega or Violeta Chamorro.

[Begin Valdivieso recording] The government will accept the elections as the means to choose the legitimate president that Nicaragua has a right to have. Consequently, relations will tend to return to normal. I cannot predict when this will occur, but, of course, the tendency is to normalize relations. [end recording]

[Tenorio] He also said a three-member delegation of the CSE will travel to Nicaragua this weekend to observe the election process that, according to the diplomatic official, proves the influence on Central America of the changes in Eastern Europe.

Valdivieso also gave a report on his 11-17 February tour through the UK and FRG, which was part of the diplomatic offensive launched by the government.

[Begin Valdivieso recording] On this trip, both to London and Bonn, we explained that President Cristiani emphasized in his 1 June 1989 inaugural address the importance of immediately establishing contact with the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] on a continuous basis within the context of the search for a durable peace in El Salvador and Central America. [end recording]

[Tenorio] The deputy foreign minister also reported that European countries were asked to continue sending economic aid to our country. The official said the request was granted; the FRG will maintain its aid on a level equal to previous years.

Air Force Head Views Aid, Refugees' Deaths

PA2002225790 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Report by Guillermo Valencia]

[Text] [Valencia] Salvadoran Air Force [FAS] Commander General Rafael Villamariona said today that rockets were fired by a helicopter at a refugee camp in Chalatenango by accident during clashes with rebel columns. Gen. Villamariona said the rockets, which killed six refugees, were not fired at the people on purpose, nor can the firing be considered an error.

[Begin Villamariona recording] No, it was not a mistake. The pilots told me what happened. Upon returning from a mission, they report on what happened during the mission. They never reported that they had fired on the civilian population or their homes. Some rockets might have

exploded near homes and damaged the one involved in the report. As I told you, this might have occurred during the fighting. The people are under pressure. The terrorists are firing heavily on the aircraft. We do not think this was a mistake, because our pilots are highly trained and know what they are doing. [end recording]

[Valencia] Last week, the Army High Command admitted its responsibility for the deaths of the six refugees of Guasperita.

In addition, Gen. Villamariona said today that the Army's operational status could be affected if the U.S. Congress decides to make its military aid package for El Salvador conditional. The officer said that the conditions tied to the aid could diminish the Armed Forces' military capabilites.

[Begin recording] [Villamariona] This kind of situation greatly affects the use of the Armed Forces. The types and number of operations the Armed Forces can conduct is reduced.

[Valencia] Has the Army's ability to fight the FMLN been diminished?

[Villamariona] No, although such a situation would have consequences. Let us keep in mind that we operated against the enemy, the terrorists, very professionally, even during the time we did not have U.S. military aid. [end recording]

[Valencia] Gen. Villamariona said in conclusion that the FAS is conducting its regular operations throughout the country.

Guatemala

Cerezo Says Aid Cut Contradicts U.S. Policy

PA2002214190 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2009 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 20 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—President Vinicio Cerezo said today that the recently announced cut in U.S. economic aid to Latin America contradicts the U.S. Government's public position regarding its contributing to consolidation of the democratic processes on this continent.

"If instead the United States starts sending aid to East Europe, it would be proving that it has more interest in Europe than in Latin America," Cerezo said today at a news conference.

Cerezo said it is "a mistake" for the United States to send aid to those European countries, but he added that Latin America must prepare itself to live without U.S. aid, a possibility that he described as "positive," because it will force the region to use its own resources to promote sustained economic development.

Cerezo said that compared to 1989, the United States has cut its economic aid to all of Latin America for the current year.

"Guatemala is aware that a total cut in aid may take place in the future and that each country must begin to resolve its problems with its own resorces, which—historically speaking—is positive," the president said.

Even though the cut in aid will affect our countries, "we must be willing to use our resources instead of continuing to rely on foreign aid," he added.

President Cerezo said that "for Guatemala, it is positive, and we are going to prove that despite the cut of approximately $30 million, we will maintain the country's economic growth," which in 1989 was 4.5 percent, according to official figures.

"We must take advantage of this circumstance in Latin America to foster the decision to maintain sustained development and not to depend on foreign aid," because "this will enhance our political independence and our ability to be ourselves," the president said.

Nicaragua

Arce Discusses Campaign Costs, Election Issues

PA2002195890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1759 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 20 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Sandinists have spent $6.4 million in the electoral campaign that will end on 21 February with a Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) event that Commander Bayardo Arce has said will be an "unprecedented rally."

In a news conference today, Arce, for the first time, provided official figures on the cost of the Sandinist campaign and the origin of the funds, which he mainly attributed to the sale of bonds ($2.6 million) and solidarity contributions from abroad (more than $3 million).

The Sandinist leader said the FSLN has received funds from only one foreign party, the German "Alternative List" [Lista Alternativa Alemana], known as the Greens, which has donated 500,000 marks (approximately $300,000).

Arce announced that the Sandinists plan to gather "more than 300,000 people" in Managua on 21 February to close the ruling party's campaign. The rally will be preceded by two marches led by Daniel Ortega, the current president who is running for re-election, and by vice presidential candidate Sergio Ramirez.

"We will present our platform of peace, national reconciliation, and democracy," Arce announced. Arce also viewed the latest statements by opposition leader Violeta Chamorro as positive.

Arce, one of the nine members of the FSLN directorate, said he was pleased by the "spirit of reconciliation" expressed by Chamorro at the closing of her campaign on 19 February, and he added that "conditions exist to carry out concerted efforts in the country."

Nevertheless, if the Sandinists win, he rejected the "immediate" incorporation of UNO [National Opposition Union] members in the new government.

The FSLN leader expressed confidence in the possibility of improved relations with the United States after the 25 February elections.

Arce predicted that "(George) Bush will be able to distance himself from the policy of Ronald Reagan," the former U.S. president who supported the contras' armed actions during the eight years of Nicaraguan civil war.

Arce, the FSLN campaign manager, emphasized the foreign polls that point to a big lead by the Sandinists and he spoke in detail about the campaign that Ortega has been waging throughout the country's municipalities with the help of 80,000 "activists."

Arce rejected the opposition charges about state resources being used to benefit the ruling party, stating that the FSLN "has paid for all the (public) services that have been used."

"If we lose the elections, we will accept the results and get ready to win them in 1996," the commander said. However, he stressed that "an UNO victory is remote."

All of the parties will hold a meeting today with Mariano Fiallos, president of the Supreme Electoral Council, to guarantee that no incidents will occur at the end of the campaign or during the voting process.

To date, most of the observers of the electoral process have stressed that it has taken place without any major incidents and under conditions that permit them, for the time being, to guarantee the results.

Wheelock Views Agrarian Program, U.S. Relations

PA2002194090 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Feb 90 p 13

[Report by T. Rothschuh]

[Text] Tecolostote, Region Five—Jaime Wheelock, minister of agriculture development and agrarian reform, has announced before more than 1,000 farm workers that the government of Nicaragua is making preliminary contacts with representatives of the U.S. Gvernment to begin normalizing relations between the two countries.

Wheelock stated that "undoubtedly an electoral victory of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] will initiate an improvement in the relations with the United States, which will lift the embargo, and we will develop a long period of peace and dignified relations." He described the latter as a historical achievement of the FSLN.

In the meeting he held with the rice farm workers of the Rigoberto Lopez Perez Enterprise, the revolutionary commander announced the resolution drafted two days earlier after meeting with the agricultural commissions. The resolution insists on the suspension of expropriations, guarantees for the farmers' property, and the distribution of agrarian reform land titles to those requesting them.

Comparing the FSLN program with that of the National Opposition Union [UNO], Wheelock said that the pro-imperialist alliance has said it is revising all the land titles it will return to the Somozists, including the Rigoberto Lopez Perez Enterprise, which was once owned by the dictator Anastasio Somoza. The farm workers answered with a loud "never."

Wheelock voiced the government's determination to improve the economy and the standard of living of the Nicaraguans and to strengthen the policies for supplies, salaries, and the most urgent needs of the population.

After explaining the FSLN program and the limitations resulting from the war, Wheelock emphasized the level of social awareness of the working class. He stressed the workers "do not think with their stomachs but with their brains, and they will have chosen the right path by voting on the 25th in Box Five because the FSN defends their interests."

At the same time, he urged the people not be confused by the private businessmen who are trying to sway them in favor of UNO.

The Sandinist leader stated that "everything is being improved," and he quoted production statistics that disclose an improvement since last year in export products such as sugar, bananas, cotton, coffee, and sesame.

He pointed out that rice sector will gradually improve as of March, when there will be an adjustment of salaries as a result of the increase in foreign currency derived from improved exports.

As for the government policies for this sector, Wheelock said that it is opening to the Central American market. He added that Italian equipment will be brought in this year to modernize the rice mills, thus launching a plan to increase and diversify rice production, such as the seed project that will generate more employment.

The revolutionary commander reported to the workers that for reasons of peace, justice, and reconciliation, the Thelma Prego production group has been given the San Pedro de Tolinapa estate, which had been seized by a cooperative and not expropriated during the agrarian reform.

He pointed out the government will compensate the cooperative workers and will provide them with land to use. The leader feels this is an isolated case that obeys a political need.

FSLN Urges Rejection of Election Violence

PA2002230090 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 17 Feb 90 pp 3, 4

[Text] Yesterday, the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] urged all political parties and alliances participating in the election process to sign a communique on 19 February concerning election violence. The communique will be issued by the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE]. The communique will be issued as a result of the meeting of party legal representatives and CSE officials on 16 February.

During the meeting, which was also attended by UN and OAS observers, alternate FSLN Representative Dionisio Marenco complained to the CSE about recent threats by opposition leaders Virgilio Godoy and Alfredo Cesar against Sandinist leaders.

Among the threats, Marenco included the murder of four FSLN members on 16 February. The FSLN members were murdered while traveling from Santo Domingo to Boaco, where they were going to participate in the closing of the election campaign in that area. Marenco said: "At first we thought the threats had been outbursts by Godoy and Cesar, but the truth is that the threats are putting at risk the life of many Sandinist cadres."

The FSLN complaint included the planned UNO [National Opposition Union] activities to cause chaos and disorder on election day. Marenco specified that UNO is planning to not recognize the official election results and that it is urging its militants to surround JRV [Vote-Counting Boards] locations on election day.

Marenco said: "That is a very old trick used to create street disorder and force the police to repress such demonstrations, in order to then be able to accuse its members of police violence. If the police do not act in these cases, the demonstrators would clash with followers of the FSLN and other parties to create chaos and disorder."

Although at the meeting Marenco made a commitment to respect the elections results, it was impossible to reach a written agreement.

All the parties' legal representatives complained about the "slogan-painting war." The FSLN said the newspaper LA PRENSA "is virtually teaching its activists how to damage and destroy FSLN campaign posters."

At the end of the meeting Marenco said: "The CSE is the judge, but all the parties must make their commitments. There are agreements with all parties except UNO, which refuses to end the election campaign in a peaceful way."

For his part, OAS election observer Horacio Boneo has said that he hopes the topics discussed at the meeting, "become a reality on 19 February. We all hope that the parties reach an agreement to avoid disturbances on election day," Boneo asserted.

UNO Refuses To Sign Accord

PA2102044090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0119 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Managua, 20 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—UNO today declined to sign a document proposed by the CSE in which the political parties promise not to hold demonstrations on 25 February until after the official results of the elections are announced.

Seven parties, including the FSLN, signed the document, the main stipulation of which is to ban "victory demonstrations" on 25 February. This stipulation intends to prevent acts of violence after the ballot boxes are closed.

After a political leaders meeting concluded, Commander Bayardo Arce, representative of the ruling FSLN, expressed his "concern" over UNO's decision.

"I think that by not signing the document supporting the CSE, the representatives of UNO, whose presidential candidate is Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, have shown that they do not want peace or peaceful elections," Arce said.

The Sandinist leader said his party had planned to hold a mass demonstration on 25 February after the elections concluded, but that the rally has been suspended in support of the CSE proposal.

"Now we will have to wait until midnight on 25 February to express our joy over the victory we are sure we will achieve on the 25th," he pointed out.

In addition, UNO legal representative Hernaldo Zuniga told reporters that UNO supports the CSE measures, but that the organization refused to sign the document because they reserve the right to express their support in a public statement on 22 February.

Other parties, the leaders of which did not sign the document, but who pledged to support the CSE publicly, are the Social Christian Party and the Marxist-Leninist People's Action Movement, two minority parties.

Elliot Richardson, special delegate of the UN Secretary General, Mario Gonzalez, head of the OAS observers in Nicaragua, and representatives of the Council of Freely Elected Heads of State, headed by Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, also attended this meeting.

Arce Issues Letter to CSE on Election Violence

PA2102001590 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 18 Feb 90 p 10

[Letter issued by Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce in Managua on 14 February]

[Text] Dr. Mariano Fiallos O., President of the Nicaraguan Supreme Electoral Council [CSE]:

Dear Dr. Fiallos,

Highly worrisome actions have taken place over the past two weeks in various Nicaraguan regions. Those actions must be analyzed by the CSE. The actions are intended to provoke acts of violence and disorder on election day, and more specifically, as the vote count takes place and when the preliminary election results are being announced by the JRV's [Vote-Counting Boards].

Those criminal actions are being organized by National Opposition Union [UNO] members. Such actions are classified in the Criminal Code as association with criminal intent, riot, rebellion, or disturbance. If such actions take place—and apparently members of UNO have plans to carry them out—they would cloud the culmination of the election campaign, which until now has been an example of honesty, organization, and cleanliness.

To the aforementioned actions and the current UNO leaders' position that they will only consider the elections fair and honest if UNO wins, we should mention the counterrevolutionary armed activities of intimidation against civilians in support of the UNO political campaign. We must also take into account the death threats against the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] leaders, and particularly against FSLN presidential candidate Daniel Ortega Saavedra. Similarly, UNO is also urging holding a public vote-count on election day, which would lead to public order disturbances. All of the aforementioned, along with information obtained by our activists and rank and file, leads us to inform the CSE about the UNO militants' activities in various regions of the country and their intention to provoke acts of violence such as those I will immediately list: **Region One**

a. On 26 January, during a meeting of candidates for municipal posts and for party poll representatives in Ocotal, Region One, UNO leaders Miguel Rivera Rocha and Fanor Guillen Sanders advised that during a meeting with Virgilio Godoy on 21 January, Godoy had told them to prepare for the case of an election defeat, because on the night [after election day] UNO activists would carry out demonstrations against the FSLN protesting alleged election fraud.

b. In El Jicaro Municipality, San Jeronimo, UNO leader Miguel Rivera stated that along with UNO followers, he will carry out a "plan of disobedience and riots" against the FSLN and the election process.

c. During a meeting of UNO followers in El Tamarindo, Julia Silva, Jullia Castellon, and Juan Diaz discussed a plan for the possible physical elimination of FSLN members Nestor Juarez, Jose Guerrero, Freddy Catin, Carlos Escogar, and Hilario Somarriba before or after the elections, regardless of whether UNO won or lost the elections. This plan would be led by Maria Aguilar, who lives in El Tamarindo. **Region Two**

a. Aquileo Guevara, UNO member in Chinandega (Somotillo), has advised people to help the contras who visit their homes. He added that should the FSLN win the elections, the war would continue and UNO would support the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Front].

b. Jose Pallais Arana, UNO leader in Region Two, is training youths from the UJD [expansion unknown] to integrate them into the organization's brigades to face any developments after the elections. According to Pallais, the brigades' mission is to maintain a state of unrest and civil disobedience. **Region Three**

a. Henry Oporta Alvarado, UNO leader in District One, has repeatedly said that groups of youths are being trained to serve as riot squads against the FSLN during the final stretch of the campaign.

b. Ricardo Guerrero Saenz, member of the PSD [Social Democratic Party] (UNO), a Pancasan resident, has said that should the FSLN win the elections on 25 February, UNO plans to incite its followers to rebellion. He has said that the first phase calls for protest marches and meetings, hunger strikes, the occupation of schools and churches, and work stoppages to provoke popular insurrection and create an unstable atmosphere that would force the FSLN to recognize UNO's victory, and if this is not feasible, to further isolate the FSLN to promote U.S. intervention.

c. Carlos Reyes, UNO territorial organization activist in Region Three, has publicly stated that certain members of UNO's Political Conucil have said that they will call for stoppages, strikes, and protests on 25 February.

d. Roberto Ferrey has advised UNO neighborhood leaders to urge the people to protest on the streets to demand honest elections and prevent the FSLN from committing fraud on 25 February.

e. UNO Election control advisers Amado Lopez (Venezuelan) and Julio Roby (Panamanian) have recommended that territorial organization activists incite the people on 25 February; that residents of each neighborhood gather around their corresponding JRV to pressure and demand that the results be revealed to the people and thus prevent the FSLN from committing fraud.

According to the Venezuelan Lopez, this measure would move the people to act vigorously at each JRV when an FSLN victory is announced.

f. In Villa Venezuela, UNO activists Eddy Almendarez, Xiomara Guerrero, Ronald Vargas, and William Lopez have met to establish a riot squad to face what they have called "Sandinist mobs."

g. Ana Sadie Ulloa, who is in charge of UNO territorial organization in District Six, has said that should UNO lose the elections as a result of fraud, the only option left to the people would be an armed struggle.

h. Carmen Garcia, an UNO activist who resides in the Camilo Ortega neighborhood, has said that the 25 February elections will not take place, because that alliance is preparing activities to hamper them. With that purpose in mind, Garcia has stated that she has contacted

Martha and Javier Morales, from the Hilario Sanchez neighborhood, who reportedly have the materials to make bombs that would be used to prevent the elections.

i. Concepcion Briceno Rivas, an UNO activist who resides in Villa Jose Benito Escobar, is supported by a group of youths trained to take on any operation against the government. He has also said that there is a plan to harrass FSLN members.

j. Hector Sandoval Aleman, coordinator of the CUS [Confederation for Trade Union Unity] youth movement, has said he is in the process of forming a shock group that will be given training to damage all Sandinist electoral propaganda.

k. Antonio Lopez, rank and file leader of UNO in Nueva Libia neighborhood, has stated that during the voting on 25 February, disturbances will be carried out and the Sandinists in the JRV's will be the first to be eliminated.

l. Former GN [National Guard member] Ronaldo Vega Zeledon, an UNO activist in the Jonathan Gonzalez neighborhood, has stated that he is offering dollars to vote for that alliance and that if necessary, they will carry out armed actions against the people to prevent the FSLN from winning.

m. UNO member Raymundo Putoy has said that if the FSLN wins, UNO will charge fraud and its members will take advantage of the situation to kill the Sandinists who live in their respective neighborhoods.

n. UNO leader Javier Leon Arce and other activists of El Eden neighborhood have stated that they have plans to set fire to the FSLN campaign office in their neighborhood. Cairo Fletes Orozco, of the Javier Cuadra neighborhood, has said that he would do the same in his neighborhood.

o. Ruth Cuadra Narvaez, UNO activist in the Macarali Heroes and Martyrs neighborhood, has been organizing groups to exert psychological pressure on FSLN activists and to prepare for activities on 25 February. **Region Five**

a. Chester Guevara, UNO candidate for alternate deputy, has said that the UNO Political Council has assigned him the task of finding out which UNO leaders would be willing to take asylum or take up arms with the contras, because if it is declared there was "electoral fraud" on 25 February, a call to insurrection will be issued from the mountains. **Region Six**

a. UNO leaders Denis Romero and Aristides Orozco have told their leaders [as published] to prepare for the offensive that will be launched against the FSLN on 25 February.

b. UNO activist Denis Lara, resident of San Isidro Libertador, has told UNO members and activists that they will have to burn the houses of FSLN activists.

c. Sergio Cruz and Oscar Amador have said that they will organize groups in the Guanuca and Walter Mendoza neighborhoods to carry out all kinds of actions on 25 February.

d. The UNO director in Esquipulas has told UNO activists that they will have to organize a structure to face the FSLN through armed means.

e. Santiago Sanchez of UNO has stated that they will liquidate FSLN activists in the El Gorrion UPE [State Production Unit] and Francisco Sanchez, an UNO poll representative, has said that he has received instructions to carry out activities to exert pressure on 25 February.

f. Fernando Zuniga, an UNO activist in Matagalpa neighborhood, has said that the relatives of contras and other people should be recruited to take up arms if UNO loses the elections.

To all these actions we must add the statements made publicly by vice presidential candidate Virgilio Godoy on 9 February at an opposition rally in Managua. He said that "we will settle accounts with the FSLN." This was a clear death threat against leaders of my party as stated in our Penal Code, Article 232, and constitutes inciting to use obscene language and insolence. Later Godoy told the Spanish newspaper DIARIO 16, "we are going to tell our people that when the voting concludes, they must be at the voting booths." This statement confirms the accusation we presented to the CSE about UNO's intention to promote violence on election day. The newspaper LA PRENSA in its issue no. 18417, published on 9 February, carries an article entitled "Death of a Bureaurat," which, in a somewhat direct way, proffers death threats against members of the FSLN National Directorate, specifically our presidential candidate Commander Daniel Ortega. There are other facts that confirm our accusation that UNO plans to promote disorders on 25 February. UNO campaign adviser Venezuelan-born David Zunne has told several people that he has recommended to the UNO Political Council that on 25 February it should organize a march to the CSE headquarters to demand that regardless of the electoral results, it should proclaim a UNO victory. This march should be led by a group called the "Special Commandos for Defense of the Vote." UNO should proceed to create this special commando unit. Zunne has also said that he has presented several alternatives to promote acts of violence if UNO loses the elections, especially if it loses by a wide margin, because this would provoke many doubts about the purity of the electoral process.

These instructions by UNO's foreign adviser to the members of the Political Council have been confirmed in statements by Alfredo Cesar to the MIAMI HERALD asserting that UNO will defy the Sandinist Government and stage demonstrations after the voting concludes.

It can clearly be seen that these acts are interrelated, and that their only goal is to create and conduct acts of violence on 25 February to disavow the results of the elections and label them fraudulent. That is why we

hereby ask the CSE to adopt all necessary measures and to call on UNO representatives and the publishers of LA PRENSA to stop inciting violence and claiming alleged fraud, because the electoral process has all the guarantees needed to fulfill its task honestly and cleanly, as it has been doing until now, as international observers have certified.

Bayardo Arce, FSLN Legal Representative
Free Fatherland or Death

FSLN's Tirado Comments on Elections, Socialism

PA2002161690 Paris AFP in Spanish 0145 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Feb (AFP)—To face up to the present crisis in socialism, "it is necessary to return to criteria like that of a market system, and even to the form of democracy," Commander Victor Tirado, a member of the Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), has said in an exclusive interview published on 18 February in the Mexican daily EL DIA.

Commenting on what Nicaragua can learn from East Europe's experiences, Tirado said the FSLN will continue to direct its efforts toward socialism, although basing itself on capitalism, because "it is necessary to create future social forces and a productive economic base." [sentence as received]

"As for the elections, we are going to go for broke," Tirado said in reference to the presidential and legislative elections that will be held in Nicaragua on 25 February.

"There have always been groups allied to imperialism in Nicaragua. If the FSLN were to lose the elections, 28 years of struggle would have been in vain," Tirado said.

Regarding the Sandinist electoral program, Tirado said: "The important thing is to emerge from backwardness, a task that is not at all simple if one takes into account the fact that the enemy came, set fire to the house, and later accused the FSLN of the fire, of what was lost, and of what the fire did not allow us to do."

Tirado said the Sandinist Army "will be reduced as soon as the current war situation changes."

Tirado said the political crisis in the socialist countries has its roots in their deep economic crisis. "The Communist parties, the centralized planning, and the lack of democracy halted the development of productive forces; hence their scientific and technological backwardness," the Sandinist commander said. For Tirado, the solution is to open up those societies to electoral democracy and to a market system, "because that is not exclusive to the bourgeoisie or to capitalism. It exists and will continue to exist if we move to communism. A market system and a multiparty system can also exist within socialism."

The swiftness with which the changes occurred in East Europe shows that "the underlying conditions for the creation of new parties existed (....) A change was needed, but socialism is not lost," the FSLN leader said.

Tirado defended the centralism of the CPSU after World War II, saying: "A strong state was needed. In those times, it was understandable that the party should have set itself up over civilian society, but it should not seek to be eternal," he said. "However, humanity must go through various stages. History is a bitch and does not allow its laws to be violated."

The Nicaraguan commander denied that socialism is coming to an end. However, he said: "Each society thinks for itself, and socialism is not exportable."

Borge Says UNO Planning Candidates' Murder

PA2002174090 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 18 Feb 90 pp 3, 8

[Text] Tipitapa—Tomas Borge, minister of interior and revolutionary commander, charged here 17 February that the rightist National Opposition Union [UNO] is planning to murder some of its candidates to mar the legitimacy of the elections.

"They might stage an attack against themselves," and in this manner also "settle some internal disputes." However, "they are underestimating the state security corps and the capabilities of the Sandinist police to investigate who did it in less than four hours," Borge added.

"If they do this, we will unmask them," Borge said, while urging the Venezuelan adviser of GN-1 [National Guard-UNO] named Zune to leave the country because it is the best thing he can do, instead of preparing an atmosphere of violence for 25 February.

The Sandinist leader described the rightist adviser as a "farce and a swindler...who has no business meddling in our domestic affairs." Zune has told GN-1 to form shock groups to pressure the people counting votes.

Borge feels the plans prepared by Zune to provoke disturbances when the votes are being counted are symptoms of defeat and are a dangerous, irresponsible, immoral, and antipatriotic manuever of GN-1.

Thomas Borge added that once the polls close and the vote counting begins, no one should even get close to provoking disturbances. If there are disturbances, the people will be watching and the Sandinist police will be there to crack down and enforce the law, without the slightest fear.

He also referred to the lies spread by LA PRENSA, UNO, and Lino Hernandez' human rights commission, which have said the Sandinists are responsible for many persons who are missing or have been murdered. He stressed that those people are spreading lies, because in Ciudad Sandino he demonstrated that five of these persons—Ezequiel Mateo Lopez, Marvin Herrera Siles,

Carlos Antonio Palacios Garcia, Jose Mercedes Gomez, and Emerito Alfonso Ramirez Lacayo—are alive. These persons walked among the people after the newspaper of the Somozist National Guard had reported they had been murdered by the Sandinists. "Here they are," Borge said.

The commander added that "the rightists lie about everything." He pointed out that it is is easier to uncover a liar than a thief, and that here we are uncovering both liars and thieves, and "that is the reason why they are saying there will be an electoral fraud."

Interior Minister Tomas Borge added that "we would be fools if we committed fraud knowing that the entire population supports the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] if we committed fraud, then UNO would win." He also noted that UNO cannot win the elections because it has so few people that it has been unable to appoint all of its party representatives.

Likewise, the Sanidnist leader mentioned the UNO rally scheduled for today outside the cathedral. UNO members say they will arrive on horseback. In other words, they are going to fill half of the space with horses, and the other half as well.

Concluding, he urged some 10,000 supporters from Tipitapa who went to the Metasa enterprise for the FSLN closing rally in that area to vote for the undeniable vanguard of the people on 25 February in Box Five.

COSEP Criticizes Government Electoral Promises

PA2002225990 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Feb 90 p 4

[Communique issued by the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, COSEP, in Managua on 14 February]

[Text] The latest actions being carried out by the government show that to cover for the economic chaos it has brought upon the people, the government has resorted to granting privileges at taxpayer expense and thus maintaining a party in power while weakening the institutions that represent the private sector.

Using the pre-election period as a pretext for the indiscriminate distribution of practically everything speaks very poorly of the seriousness of the administration and will wear out the economic and social situation.

Government representatives are trying to please persons whose property had been confiscasted by telling them that their property will be returned. However, if this is actually done, it would be a gracious concession through the arbitrary use of power, as is the case with property that was recently confiscated from Aleman, Cuadra, and Bolanos.

COSEP has brought up before the people and government the need for a legal review of the confiscations that have been made and their return according to the law through courts of justice and not as favoritism granted under the protection of political abuse of power.

If the government has any plans to create conditions for economic reconstruction, it must set aside the use of coercion and promises, and work with organizations that truly represent the private sector. In this manner, it can discuss and outline a policy of reviewing the confiscations, turning state enterprises and banks over to private ownership, freeing foreign trade, etc. In this manner, the government's policy will cover everyone with equal rights and will not include gifts that lead to manipulation and false illusions.

Only the justice established by general laws can open new horizons for our Nicaragua. Only freedom represents life for free enterprise. Those who exchange freedom for temporary security do not deserve freedom or security.

UNO Members Accused of Murdering Four Peasants

PA2002225890 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Feb 90 p 3

[Report by Martha M. Gonzalez]

[Text] Four peasants from a farming cooperative in El Robledal, 25 km northeast of Esteli, were savagely murdered at 0930 on 18 February by about 20 armed members of the National Opposition Union (UNO), who ambushed them in a place known as La Estrechura—while UNO was closing its campaign in Managua.

The criminals ambushed the peasants as they traveled on horseback to their farming cooperative. The contras shot the men and their horses, and then slit the throat of Jose Ramon Galeano, the only one not immediately killed.

The murdered peasants were: Leopoldo Galeano Diaz, Ricardo Galeano Galeano, Jose Ramon Galeano Vargas, and Mario Rolando Galeano Espinoza. The latter three were, respectively, candidate, militant, and party representative of the Sandinist National Liberation Front.

Officer Warns UN Group About Contra Missiles

PA2002133290 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Colonel Javier Pichardo, commander of the Sandinist Air Force, has said the UN helicopters guarding Nicaraguan borders are risking being downed by the counterrevolution because it has about 500 antiaircraft Redeye missiles, which poses a serious danger to civilian aviation.

The military commander has advised the UN Observer Group in Central America to coordinate its aerial surveillance operations with the counterrevolution to prevent its helicopters from being hit by the U.S. missiles still in the contra's possession.

Meanwhile, Daniel Pozo, commander of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] staff in Region One, has reported

that more than 300 contras coming from Honduras have infiltrated into that region to spoil the 25 February elections.

He added that the counterrevolutionaries are in the heart of the mountainous areas of Quilali, San Rafael del Norte, La Concordia, and Miraflores.

17 Feb Press Review on Election Campaign

PA2002123990

[Editorial Report] BARRICADA, the organ of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, carries two articles mentioning campaign activities by the National Opposition Union, UNO. One article on page 4, a special correspondent's report on a 16 February UNO rally in Diriamba, says some "2,500" people attended the rally in San Caralampio Square in Diriamba. The article says the organizers of the rally were unhappy with the poor attendance; it says UNO campaign manager Engineer Antonio Lacayo and UNO activists Alvaro Chamorro Mora and Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios were "very concerned." The report notes that UNO vice presidential candidate Virgilio Godoy was not present.

The article adds that the speech given by UNO presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro was "conciliatory," as if to "disassociate herself from the bellicose speeches given in previous days by Godoy...." It cites Mrs. Chamorro as saying that her coalition has no plan to seek revenge; instead she called for prudence.

The article emphasizes Mrs. Chamorro's infirmity. It describes in detail the difficulty involved in transferring her with a broken leg from her vehicle to the speaker's platform. It says she knitted her brow in pain, "but later remembered her sympathizers and the international photographers and cameramen," and managed a smile.

In closing, the article says Sandinist leaders consider the UNO rally to have been a "resounding failure;" after all, "to attract 3,000 people is ridiculous."

The second BARRICADA article on UNO, on page 7, cites labor and other group leaders, "who represent over 200,000 workers," as saying that the language used by UNO vice presidential candidate Virgilio Godoy in his campaign speeches is tantamount to "political blackmail." It quotes one leader as saying that the UNO candidate's attitude is "fascist, provocative, and irresponsible." The article says that the leaders concur that this attitude is an indication that UNO knows it has lost the elections.

The opposition paper LA PRENSA views events from the UNO perspective. Reporting on the Diriamba rally on pages 1 and 12, the paper says that "over 10,000 residents of Diriamba were in San Caralampio Square." It says Mrs. Chamorro was enthusiastically cheered as she promised to end the obligatory military service, declare a general amnesty, halt inflation and scarcities, and put idle land to work, as well as to "reactivate the enterprises that were poorly administered by the Sandinists."

Another LA PRENSA report on pages 1 and 12 says that UNO, through Agustin Jarquin Anaya, a member of the UNO Political Commission, has guaranteed Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo that the opposition has no plans to carry out acts of violence after 25 February as the FSLN has charged. In the talks with the cardinal on 19 February, members of the UNO commission reportedly expressed their concern over customs authorities' refusal to permit the circulation of "a large amount" of UNO propaganda material, including "60,000 color posters of Dona Violeta."

A LA PRENSA report by Aura Peralta Collado on page 3 says that UNO also denied FSLN charges at a press conference—no date given—held at UNO headquarters in Managua. The report says that on that occasion, members of the UNO Political Commission denounced what they called an FSLN campaign of "slander and defamation" and vowed that in the elections UNO would give a "testimonial example of the exercise of democracy that we want and that we practice."

LA PRENSA also carries a letter of protest on page 4 from UNO activist Hernaldo Zuniga Montenegro to the Nicaraguan Supreme Electoral Council detailing four specific instances in which UNO members were attacked by FSLN activists. The letter asks the Electoral Council to remedy this type of action, which the writer says "darken and taint" the electoral campaign.

A report by Maria Elena Palacios on page 3 in LA PRENSA states that an unspecified number of members of the Indian community of Monimbo, in Masaya, switched from the Social Christian Party, PSC, over to UNO, because, they said: "The PSC led by Erick Ramirez is not seeking unity...."

Finally, a LA PRENSA article by Roger Mendieta Alfaro on page 2 describes the Sandinist state as a "booty state." It maintains that in his electoral campaign, President Ortega is "giving away land, cancelling debts, freeing prisoners...and making the most illogical promises." The writer maintains that it would be impossible for the Sandinists to do all the things they have promised, even if they truly wanted to, because in the 10 years of "anarchic revolution," the productive structure has become obsolete, and the business structure has lost its cohesion. The writer says that to produce, the country needs foreign resources, and the Sandinist government is not a good credit risk. He further predicts that if the Sandinists commit fraud in the elections, the situation could degenerate into violence in which the opposition members would most likely be the victims but, he says, "after the carnage, the victorious Sandinists would lose power." He urges the Sandinists to be "pragmatic" if they wish to "survive as a political movement."

18 Feb Press Review

PA2002175090

[Editorial Report] The Sandinist newspaper BARRICADA, on page 10, reports on a meeting between Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco and a group of U.S. congressmen, among them Rick Boucher, Constance Morella, and Olympia Snowe. Through an interpreter, Tinoco told them "you are visiting Nicaragua at a very important time, because the elections will decide the peace and future of our country." He said Nicargua has undergone far-reaching changes as a result of the Esquipulas agreements signed in August 1977. He told them of the many foreign observers and reporters that will cover the 25 February elections, BARRICADA added.

Meanwhile, the opposition paper LA PRENSA, on pages 1 and 12, reports on a communique issued by the military commanders of the Nicaraguan Resistance's southern front, in which they "promise to respect the people's right to vote and not to hinder the electoral process that will end with the 25 February elections." Southern front Commander Pedro Lara has ordered his men to abstain from committing any act "that might serve as a pretext to the Sandinist regime to cancel the elections."

The same paper, on pages 1 and 14, carries an editorial entitled "Nicaragua's Decisive Hour." It says that recently Sandinist leaders have confirmed their totalitarian tendencies. Victor Tirado Lopez says today in EL NUEVO DIARIO that the elections are costly but that "despite the economic diffiuclties, the effort is worthwile, because through them, we will not lose 28 years of struggle by the FSLN (Sandinist National Liberation Front) to impose its 'historical project' in Nicaragua." This phrase should be taken to mean that the nine commanders want to install totalitarian communism in our country. This is an amazing declaration with the elections only a short time away, LA PRENSA adds. The editorial claims Tomas Borge's statements show even more contempt for the people's opinion. Borge is following Fidel Castro's policy of "wanting to drown himself and the whole island rather than admit that he has been politically mistaken his entire life."

Panama

Arias Calderon Explains Role of FP Commander

PA1602151790 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Ricardo Arias Calderon, vice president of the Republic and minister of government and justice, insists that the cabinet decree regulating the current Public Force [FP] does not grant nationwide power to the FP commander.

[Begin recording] [Arias Calderon] The decree says that special units may be created within the National Police for specific purposes such as guarding borders, participating in the protection of the Panama Canal, and providing support and protection for democratic institutions.

However, these special units require specific authorization from the president of Republic as well as from the government and justice minister to be established. In addition, if they were to be created, these special units must then be organized in such a manner that they can be separated from the National Police, should the law so determine. That is the only topic that indirectly touches on what you mentioned.

[Unidentified reporter] Dr. Arias Calderon, a newspaper editorial today wonders if the decree grants too much nationwide command to the FP commander. What do you think?

[Arias Calderon] I have read all of the editorials and I found that one of them mentions the relationship between the FP with the provincial and municipal civilian authorities. This editorial does not fully quote the prtoblem in question. It merely quotes the part of the decree that says the National Police will act in consultation with and in coordination with the provincial and municipal civilian authorities.

However, it does not quote the entire paragraph where it says that as agents of authority, the National Police will abide by the orders issued by the provincial and municipal civilian authorities in compliance with their legal functions.

Thus, I believe that if the full text had been quoted, the author of the editorial would have answered his own questions. [end recording]

Column Criticizes Public Force Creation Decree

PA1602191390 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Feb 90 p 1

["As Of Today" column]

[Text] With some delay, because of the complexity of the topic and the many different opinions about what must be done, the Cabinet has issued Decree 38 through which the Public Force is created. The decree clearly states that the Public Force is under the direct orders of the executive branch and that its activities are subject to the laws and constitution of the Republic, with complete respect for human rights. Equally clear is the division of the Public Force into the National Police, National Air Service, and National Maritime Service, which will operate with separate structures and chains of command. The arrangements regarding the penitentiary system and the Judicial Technical Police are less precise. The operation of those institutions has been left under "existing legislation." Also contemplated is the possibility of organizing "special units of the National Police to guard the borders and protect the Panama Canal when the president and the justice and government minister so decide.

[quotation marks as published] These units could be separated from the National Police if required by law. That provision suggests that the Cabinet is worried about the concentration of forces under the National Police, but leaves the responsibility for deciding that, and many other issues, to a future law. The decree is definitely necessary, but reading it leads to the inevitable conclusion that it is not enough and, in some aspects, inadequate. The creation of a nationwide police corps is a subject that should be thoroughly discussed before approving the law that creates the Public Force. Police work is eminently local by nature; thus, it should be divided and subordinated to the different levels of civilian authorities in provinces, districts, and corregimientos. The "consultation and coordination" with local authorities, as indicated by the decree, is not enough. The sole possibility of the chief of the National Police being able to give orders that are binding all over the country is, simply, terrifying. Machiavelli said "Divide and rule." Lets heed the wise advice now while conditions still allow us to do so. Later it may be too late.

Ford Comments on Foreign Debt Renegotiation

PA1902231490 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Feb 90

[Text] According to Guillermo Ford, planning and economic policy minister, the Panamanian Government has selected Dr. Carlos Valencia to conduct the renegotiation and refinancing of the Panamanian foreign debt.

In addition, Ford gave details regarding the efforts the government is making to obtain fresh money from international credit organizations.

[Begin Ford recording] Our priority will be to meet our obligations with the various international credit organizations known as IFI [international financial organizations] for a number of reasons. First, the Panamanian Government asked the U.S. Government—and this was approved in the first $500 million package—to contribute to the payment of those obligations with approximately $130 to $150 million. The United States has organized what has been called the Support Group, so Panama also contributes to the payment of its debts with an extremely important sum of money. Japan and the EC countries are also studying their participation in said group. Thanks to that support, we could bring our arrears of payment up to date. We owe $540 million.

We hope to do that over the next 60 days. Once we make those accounts current, we will be eligible to receive new loans from the various credit organizations. We could receive between $400 and $500 million.

Carlos Valencia will be in charge of refinancing the private foreign debt, which is handled by the private banks. Those will be long and difficult negotiations. However, we hope to solve the private debt problem this year. Thus far, we have acknowledged the private foreign debt. We are going to renegotiate it now, because the country simply can no longer carry the burden of the interest rate that corresponds to an almost $5 billion foreign debt. [end recording]

Banking Official Views Need To Maintain Secrecy

PA1702165790 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Statement by Edgardo Lasso Valdes, president of the National Banking Association, in Panama City; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Coded accounts are subject to a special law that says that Panamanian authorities may look into such accounts only in cases of criminal investigations. The other kinds of accounts, those we know as savings accounts, time deposits, and normal checking accounts, which are not coded, are also confidential. In other words, no one—not even a judge—may go to a bank and say: Look, I want to know who your depositors are and how much money they have in their accounts.

If a serious investigation is being conducted—and by serious we mean a legal investigation within the framework of the law—regarding a specific account, a note has to be submitted to the bank stating: We are investigating the account belonging to this person or that company, and we want you to provide us with all the details on said account.

The judge is in turn obligated to keep this information confidential. He cannot tell the press: This account in this bank, which we are investigating, contains this much money, and we believe that this man has committed this crime. No, he cannot do that. This information must be kept confidential. This is what we call secret banking.

It seems that people in the United States believe that our secret banking is designed to cover up illegal businesses; that we are actually sheltering criminals. This is why they insist so much that we must do away with our secret banking system to allow them to investigate any account linked to drug trafficking or money laundering.

We insist that we agree such investigations must be conducted. Our banking center has always allowed this kind of investigation. However, we cannot allow or agree to a lifting of the secret banking system or the confidentiality principle and subject any bank customer in Panama to investigations by any foreign power.

PRD Says U.S. Army Still 'Occupying' Country

PA1802024690 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 17 Feb 90 pp A1, A2

[Communique issued by the National Political Commission of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD); date and place not given]

[Text] The U.S. Government, through the different media, has announced the withdrawal of the additional 13,000 U.S. troops that participated in the invasion of Panama. The local newspaper and television media itself have shown pictures and video reports of the withdrawal of troops and

military equipment used in the military actions against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Panama. However, the reality we are living in Panama is different. U.S. Army troops and vehicles continue to patrol the entire country and are quartered in barracks and police stations belonging to the so-called Public Force, thereby maintaining the real control of the country. In addition, the U.S. Army continues carrying out military operations and combing certain areas of the nation.

U.S. troops are still based and conducting military operations at the Rio Hato military base in Cocle Province, which was reverted to Panama in 1970. They still occupy the Cimarron military base in eastern Panama, and they are still stationed in Cerro Fabrega on the Costa Rican border and in Bahia Honda in Mariato, Veraguas Province.

The announced withdrawal of U.S. troops from Panama was a maneuver by the Bush government to save the antidrug summit in Cartagena, Colombia on 15 February, to lift some of the pressure, and to guarantee the presence of Presidents Alan Garcia Perez of Peru and Jaime Zamora of Bolivia, who had announced that they would not attend the meeting as long as U.S. troops remained in Panama.

Therefore, the Bush government said the troops that invaded Panama had been withdrawn, even when it was widely known that they were still militarily occupying the country, using troops from the so-called Southern Command stationed at the military bases for the purpose of defending the canal. If the U.S. troop withdrawal was true, which we doubt, it would imply that the presence of so many troops is unjustifiable in normal times. The alleged joint patrol by the U.S. Army and the so-called Public Force throughout the country is an act of occupation that cannot be justified by the 1977 Torrijos-Carter treaties or by any treaty with the United States.

Therefore we ask, why is it that after the invasion the U.S. Army still militarily occupies the military bases in Rio Hato, Cimarron, Cerro Fabrega, and Bahia Honda? We ask, who authorized the Yankee Army's patrol throughout the country? Is this the end of the invasion and the beginning of a permanent occupation?

We warn that since there is talk of the invading troops' withdrawal from Panama, it is unacceptable for a foreign army to continue to patrol the country and carry out all the functions that should be carried out by the Panamanian Army or Public Force. As long as the U.S. Army continues to occupy our territory, as long as every last Yankee soldier is not withdrawn from Panama and returned to his military base to take care of the exclusive function of protecting and defending the canal as established in the treaties, our country will remain under foreign occupation.

Consequently, we announce to the governments of Latin America and the world, to the political and social forces, and to the people of the world, that the occupation continues and that the Panamanian people now more than ever need international solidarity, because we are still suffering a foreign invasion in a suppressed republic.

Noriega Relatives May Leave in 'Next Few Days'

FL2002025690 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0211 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Panama City, 19 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Deposed General Manuel Antonio Noriega's family, who sought asylum in the Cuban Embassy in Panama almost two months ago, may leave the country in the next few days, said Foreign Minister Julio Linares. If the Noriega family posts the bail that was imposed by the justice tribunal, they may leave without any intervention on the part of the Foreign Ministry since it will then be solely a judicial matter, Linares said.

A source from the Foreign Ministry's special commission on the matter of the asylum seekers said that over a week ago, the justice tribunal imposed a bail of $25,000 for each member of the Noriega family.

Those who have sought asylum at Cuba's diplomatic headquarters are Noriega's wife Felicidad Sieiro and their three daughters (Lorena, Thais, and Sandra), as well as their five-month-old grandson, who has received a safe-conduct from Panamanian authorities.

Regarding the situation of those who sought asylum in other Latin American embassies after the U.S. military intervention in Panama on 20 December, Linares said that the matter will be settled this week. The Foreign Ministry will try to do everything possible to resolve the problem, Linares added, although he did not dismiss the possibility that the government may refuse to give safe-conducts to the former officers who are located in the Peruvian Embassy and elsewhere.

Foreign Minister Linares and Attorney General Rogelio Cruiz today began a series of closed-door meetings to decide the fate of Noriega's former collaborators.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that on 21 February, Linares and Cruz will announce the official position on the granting of safe-conducts to ex-officers and ex-military members of the Noriega regime. The majority of the refugees have cases and judicial processes pending, in addition to criminal charges that were filed against them after they sought asylum.

$50,000 Bond for Noriega Daughter

PA2102021390 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2334 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Bond in the amount of $50,000 has been set for Lorena Noriega, daughter of deposed Panamanian dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega, who is accused of being on the government payroll with a monthly wage of $1,225 without ever having gone to work, according Judge Guillermo Augusto Salazar.

The judge said that if she pays the bond, Lorena Noriega will be able to leave the Cuban Embassy without fear of being arrested, but she will not be able to leave the country.

An investigation being carried out by the Attorney General's Office has revealed that the daughter of the former general received these wages from April 1987 to December 1989 as an official of the office of the district attorney for drug-related matters, but she never served in the position.

Authorities Arrest Former Panama City Mayor

PA1602225090 Paris AFP in Spanish 2102 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Panama City, 16 Feb (AFP)—It has been officially announced that the former mayor of Panama City, Jilma Noriega de Jurado, was arrested by Panamanian immigration authorities today as she was attempting to cross the border of Chiriqui Province into Costa Rica. Imelda Benitez, director of immigration in Chiriqui, has confirmed the former mayor's arrest to the local media.

Panama District Mayor Guillermo Cochez has filed an embezzlement charge against Noriega de Jurado. Benitez said that the former mayor was arrested because of a "travel ban issued by the Attorney General's Office."

Meanwhile, the pro-government paper CRITICA LIBRE has reported that Ernesto Balladares, who was the campaign chief during the past elections of the pro-Noriega National Liberation Coalition, has reportedly crossed the border into Costa Rica. No legal charges, however, have been filed agianst him.

Paper Says Discontent With Government 'Growing'

PA1802193790 Panama City EL PERIODICO in Spanish Edition No. 3 Feb 90

[Text] According to a poll conducted by EL PERIODICO, discontent is growing in all sectors as a result of the fact that the supreme government has not been able to organize anything, not even its own political followers.

Endara has only eight percent of national support. Social discontnent has grown in an impressive manner, because the people are now admitting the great harm done to the country by the U.S. invasion.

There has been a large number of deaths that the government press has not reported, and the national economy has been destroyed because of the bombings and the looting. Investors have lost faith since they have not been compensated for their losses. In addition, false promises of reconstruction have been made. The government press is managed in a disorderly manner, and it feasts on the sorrow of the people. There is also the scandal of persecution and vengeance.

All of this has made the climate right for violence never before seen in the political history of Panama. It has reached the point that Panama City is a no man's land, inspite of the curfew, because the criminals are on the loose and the entire society is heading toward anarchy and violence.

This situation is complicated by the slow reorganization of an unarmed police force that is not effective in controlling a country in anarchy. This Public Force cannot do anything until a U.S. armored vehicle shows up. Many of its members are demoralized or have little faith in their duties as guardians of government disorder.

Meanwhile, it becomes more evident that the government is unable to offer any solution at all to the economic and social crisis. It merely organizes a circus of lies with unlimited accusations, and it only follows its own base passions and speaks the language of violence.

The U.S. aid consists only of words.

This chaotic situation means we are a country without a social regime, and our economy is one of "each to his own." This is the sad, chaotic situation that prevails in Panama, after having been a prosperous nation during the last three years. A clear symptom of weakness was evident when the government tried to seize Radio Cadena Millionaria with the very clear intent of silencing opinions contrary to the government. However, the people took to the streets to defend station owner Balbino Macias, shouting "this damned thing is worse."

The situation is so dramatic that the entire nation is consumed with a desire to put an end to everything. The latest example was an announcement made by the National Sports Institute director, who ordered the elimination of the National Youth Baseball Championship. This not only frustrated the young athletes, but also discouraged thousands of baseball fans in Panama.

Civic Crusade Comments on Canal Operations

PA2102034090 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Feb 90 p 14B

[From paid advertisement of National Civic Crusade: "Considerations on the Panama Canal"]

[Text] In view of the important role played by the Panama Canal in the future of our fatherland, and as a result of current commitments according to the Panamama Canal treaties, the National Civic Crusade [CCN] feels it must call the national government's attention to the following aspects:

1. Concerning the appointment of Panamanians to the Panama Canal Commission [PCC] Board of Directors, in its "Proposal for a Transition Program Toward Democracy" published in January 1988, the CCN proposed the need to "replace all Panamanian members of the PCC Board of Directors" with "Panamanians of exemplary behavior, capable and knowledgeable, who have broad and well-known moral solvency."

It is public knowledge that the recent appointments to the PCC Board of Directors have been made based on political party preference without considering the CCN proposals. The CCN feels that this government and future governments must maintain the organization of the Panama Canal completely isolated from political party favoritism to safeguard its integrity as an entity responsible for offering an efficient service to the world merchant fleet. If not, the Panama Canal might fall into the abyss of corruption, outrages, and opportunism. Such has been the case with the ports, the railroad, and the reverted areas that are today in a deplorable state and nearly lost.

Because it is an enterprise that is managed within a free market, the Panama Canal is exposed to heavy competition and cannot afford to fall into petty politics and its inefficient aftermath, which would scare away the users and put the canal out of business.

Therefore, the appointments made to the Board of Directors are not appropriate and therefore, we recommend that they be promptly reconsidered before there is great distrust among the users and canal workers.

2. In the same manner that Panamanian members must be appointed to the canal Board of Directors, the canal administrator should be appointed within a framework that sets aside any political party interests. We are convinced that the Panamanian administrator of the Panama Canal should be appointed by the legislative branch based exclusively on the professional, administrative, and technical nature of that person, in addition to his having a record of exemplary behavior and well-known moral solvency.

3. As the CCN has said before, the current Panama Treaty Affairs Executive Directorate (DEPAT) should be completely reorganized. It is also urgent to create a commission that will begin to conduct studies and evaluation of the canal transfer and the development of the reverted areas. That commission should very seriously consider the future of over 12,000 Panamanians who currently work on the canal, the U.S. bases, and other offices. We recommend this commission include, among others, capable Panamanians who represent those working in the Canal Area.

Columnist Views Former Noriega Adviser Harari

PA2102043090 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Feb 90 p 24A

[From the "In a Few Words" column]

[Text] Mike Harari, a liar by profession and vocation, has told a fantastic story in Jerusalem: He left Panama six hours prior to the invasion. Now, it has been learned that he was captured by the gringo troops who turned him over to the CIA. No one knows what happened between the agency's cretins and the Mossad cretin. The fact is the CIA itself sent him to Jerusalem, via Nicaragua, according to another confidential report. This shows, once again, that scoundrels of all types understand each other extremely well, above and beyond all ideological and political barriers, which are always artificial and fragile.

One thing is for certain—Mike Harari left his apartment in San Francisco de la Caleta 45 minutes after the invasion began, and there are several witnesses who can vouch for that. Sometime that day or during the following days, he was captured by U.S. troops. One or several mysteries are yet to be cleared: Did Harari secretly collaborate with the gringos in ousting Noriega? Immoral individuals such as Harari are only loyal to themselves. One could say that Harari is a fanatic Hararist. It is very probable that months ago he reached the conclusion that his buddy was lost and he ran to offer his services to those who were going to give Noriega the coup de grace. Likewise, it is also very probable that Mad Mike bought his freedom by providing information, or that he made his way to Israel through blackmail. A high-ranking official (and I will omit his nationality) says that Mike bought his freedom with xerox copies of all the secret Mossad files in Panama. In this case, I predict a rapid and violent end to his criminal career, because an intelligent investigator (if there is such a bird) could use some of these documents to reconstruct the Mossad-Noriega-Medellin tripartite relations.

I have the telephone diary Noriega kept. Very interesting that it has registered in it—in a maniacal and meticulous manner—the names of all the persons who called him. After all, even monsters like Noriega cannot stop being bureaucrats in today's world. For example, Mike Harari called him every day, regardless of where he was. The same goes for Mohamed Seineldin. Not bad: One Mossad spy and one rabid anti-Semitic.

Argentina

Cavallo Anticipates Falklands Sovereignty Talks

PY2102020690 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0048 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 20 Feb (TELAM)—President Carlos Saul Menem tonight congratulated the Argentine delegation that in Madrid successfully negotiated the resumption of diplomatic relations with the UK, while U.S. President George Bush praised his Argentine counterpart for "his courageous proposal and his vision," which "were fundamental in achieving this great success." Menem received the members of the Argentine delegation, who were headed by Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo and Ambassador Lucio Garcia del Solar, the chief of the negotiating mission, at Government House.

Cavallo announced at the end of the meeting that the Argentine Government will ask London next week to approve the designation of Dr. Mario Campora as Argentine ambassador to the UK Government in London. [passage omitted]

Cavallo reiterated that Argentina maintains its right to claim sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands. He said that "we are closer than before" to discussions with the UK on this issue, although he pointed out that "a date has still not been set." Regarding this issue, the foreign minister pointed out "there is the basic issue of sovereignty that, as we have always said, we hope to be able to discuss in due time."

Cavallo announced the formation of a working group, as established in the agreement with the British, "to review South Atlantic affairs. The task of this working group will be to study the fishing issue, to restore confidence, and to help avoid military incidents."

Cavallo emphasized that "after reestablishing bilateral relations with the UK, achieving the lifting of the protection zone, and making progress in cooperation in many fields, we think we are closer than before to being able to discuss the issue of sovereignty." He reiterated that "reserving this right permitted us to make progress on the other issues." [passage omitted]

New Interior Ministry Secretariat Created

PY2002221590 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 18 Feb 90 p 10

[Summary] The Political Action Secretariat has been created within the Interior Ministry to facilitate quick communication and effective relations between the government and the political parties. Luis Giacosa will be secretary and Teodoro Funes under secretary of this new secretariat.

New Communications Media Secretariat Formed

PY2002185490 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Report by Marta Lopez from Government House]

[Excerpts] [Lopez] The Press and Broadcasting Secretariat was dissolved by decree when Fernando Niembro was installed as the head of a new secretariat. The decree outlined the dissolution of the old secretariat and the creation of a new organization within 60 days. The new secretariat is called the Communications Media Secretariat [Secretaria de Medios de Communicacion]

[Begin Niembro recording] [passage omitted] As of today, beside being in charge of the ATC [Argentina Televisora Color] television channel, the Trenquelauquen and Formosa television stations, and the 15 state radio stations throughout the country—two of which are in the Federal Capital—the Communications Media Secretariat will also administer Radio Nacional, TELAM news agency, and the CONFER [Federal Council of Broadcasting]. [end recording]

[Lopez] Niembro added that the personnel who worked for the former secretariat will not be fired. He also said the privatization process of state media is being carried out normally.

Bomb Attack in Cordoba Invesigated; No Victims

PY2002181090 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Report by Marcelo Taborda from Cordoba]

[Text] At 0330 today, an incendiary bomb went off under a Renault car with Buenos Aires license plate No 1012851. The gray car belonged to Mr. Roberto Denis and was parked in front of the home of Army Major Nestor Jose Montero. Maj. Montero is chief of the 4th Brigade Airborne Company and is Mr. Denis' friend. The explosion broke the windows of several nearby homes. Bomb Squad personnel of the provincial police went to investigate. The car was taken to the 14th Police Precinct, near the site of the attack.

According to reliable sources, the attack is related to a series of sanctions that Maj. Montero imposed on noncommissioned officers subordinate to him. Reportedly, these noncommissioned officers are related to Seineldin-led sectors or to the self-styled National Army. Allegedly, these noncommissioned officers had held secret meetings with Colonel Seineldin that were not so secret because they later became public knowledge.

Very early this morning, pamphlets signed by National Army noncommissioned officers were found on Colon Avenue almost at the corner of General Paz Street, in downtown Cordoba.

Federal Judge (?Uboldi) is investigating the two incidents. The Provincial Government Ministry, headed by

Dr. Jose Ignacio Cafera Tanores, will also look into the incidents. Cafera Tanores may grant a news conference.

The Army commands based in Cordoba have released a laconic note stating that the Army will not hinder justice.

Bolivia

'Sovereignty Plan' Launched To Safeguard Borders

PY2002174890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1803 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] La Paz, 19 Feb (EFE)—The Bolivian Government and the Armed Forces have decided to undertake a joint operation to reassert Bolivian sovereignty along the extensive 6,700-km border Bolivia shares with Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Chile, and Paraguay.

Deputy Interior Minister Raul Loayza informed the local press today that the reassertion of Bolivian sovereignty along the border seeks to avoid the "disturbing" illegal entrance of foreigners into Bolivia, mainly from Brazil and Peru, and to reassert the government's presence in these regions.

In the next few days, the government and the Armed Forces will launch the so-called "Sovereignty Plan," which will be implemented from 1990 to 1994 in border areas. Offices of the Immigration Department, the Interior Ministry, the police, and the Armed Forces will be opened and settlements will be established.

According to Loayza, the "Sovereignty Plan" also seeks to improve barracks infrastructure, to establish logistics systems, and to supply the border garrisons with equipment necessary to safeguard Bolivian sovereignty."

He stated that the government has confirmed the illegal presence of Brazilian "gold miners" [two preceding word given in Portuguese] and Peruvian citizens who exploit gold in Bolivian rivers and deplete forest resources.

Deputy Migration Minister Jose Luis Paredes said there are no specific figures on the number of foreigners who were illegally residing in Bolivia in December 1989, but he said it has been established that in the Northeastern regions of Bolivia "there are thousands of illegal Brazilians exploiting gold mines."

Paredes added that it has been established there are illegal Peruvian immigrants who are involved in the exploitation of lumber in the La Paz department.

Military chiefs have explained that the presence of illegal Peruvian residents in Bolivia is a matter of concern within the Armed Forces in view of the presence of "Shining Path" terrorist groups in the Peruvian territory that borders with Bolivia.

Armed Forces Commander Jorge Moreira last week said that he is in favor of reinforcing the military bases located on the Bolivian-Peruvian border and establishing military bases where there are no border posts.

Press reports indicate that the Armed Forces are also concerned about the unprotected border with Chile, which is establishing a military zone in the Iquique area bordering Bolivia.

Defense Minister Hector Ormachea said on 15 February that "any military activity carried out by neighboring countries is of concern to Bolivia." He added that Bolivia's geographic situation "in the center of South America has some disadvantages.

He added that Bolivia finds it difficult to control its extensive border because of a lack of economic resources.

Ormachea added that the Armed Forces believe the "Sovereignty Plan," which will be financed with foreign resources, will help safeguard Bolivian borders.

Planning Minister Reports on Economic Objectives

PY2002141690 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 10 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Government sources yesterday explained the objectives of the government economic policy, adding that the tax increase proposed by the executive branch in its 1990 budget draft bill seeks to avoid the return of hyperinflation. The main tax increases will be on VAT [Value Added Tax] (up from 10 to 12 percent), and on beer (up from 45 to 60 percent).

Planning Minister Enrique Garcia said during a news conference that the preparation of the budget was very difficult because "our needs outstrip our possibilities." He stressed that the budget bill is inspired by the need "to maintain and consolidate the economic stability demanded by the people."

Garcia said that if taxes are not increased, the National Treasury will have to issue money, which in turn could cause high inflation.

Garcia reiterated the government's 1990 economic objectives: Growth of four percent, maximum inflation rate of 12 percent, non-financial public sector deficit of 3.4 percent of the Gross Domestic Produce, and maximum wage increase of 12 percent.

To guarantee economic growth, the government plans to make public investments of about $465 million while private sector investments are estimated to be at least $250 million, Garcia said.

He added that there will be financial restrictions because $420 million of public investments are earmarked for current projects.

Brazil

Demonstration Against U.S. Nuclear Vessel

PY2002162690 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] A demonstration has been staged against the presence of a U.S. nuclear aircraft carrier in Rio de Janeiro.

Ecology activists demonstrated against the presence of U.S. nuclear vessels in Guanabara Bay. The protest took place outside the U.S. Consulate and protesters carried signs depicting atomic waste and nuclear missiles.

No one came out of the consulate because today was a holiday commemorating the birthday of George Washington.

The two vessels, the aircraft carrier Enterprise and the cruiser Long Beach, arrived in Rio de Janeiro yesterday. They are on a six-month world cruise and have docked here to take on supplies on their way back to the United States.

The Enterprise was the world's first nuclear aircraft carrier; it carries 81 aircraft. According to Admiral (Joseph Stracher), commander of the task force, there is no danger of radioactive contamination because the vessel's safety system is perfect. He neither denied nor confirmed the existence of nuclear weapons aboard the ships.

The ecology activists filed a court petition for the vessels to leave Guanabara Bay. They say that if there were a mishap the entire bay would be contaminated.

Central Bank President Attends Debate in Israel

PY2002172890 Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 14 Feb 90 p 39

[Text] Central Bank President Wadico Bucchi spent the last weekend in Israel on a sensitive mission that could paradoxically yield good results during the next administration: For the first time, monetary authorities and economists from countries that implemented economic stabilization plans during the eighties gathered to scientifically discuss their experiences. The overall conclusion of the debates, which Bucchi is preparing for Collor de Mello's economic team, has three points in common with all the plans that were discussed.

First, good results take from four to five years to become apparent. Second, both unorthodox and orthodox economic plans find the same difficulty: lack of political support. Third, all success stories, in either rightist or leftist governments, undergo an economic recession period.

President-Elect Chooses Planalto Palace Aide

PY2002174290 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Feb 90 p 6

[Summary] President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello has chosen Roberto Krauss, who is currently serving at the Brazilian Embassy in Paris, to be the Planalto Palace protocol chief; and Carlos Garcia, who is currently the administration department chief at Itamaraty, to be deputy chief at the Presidential Civilian Cabinet office.

Central Government Deficit Reduced in 1989

PY2002172290 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Feb 90 p B 11

[Summary] The operational deficit of the central government, including its social security obligations but not its public debt obligations, dropped during 1989 to 1.5 percent of the GDP, or 20.4 billion new cruzados, from 2.9 percent in 1988.

The primary deficit, which does not include obligations with the public debt, amounted to 0.8 percent of the GDP, or 10.8 billion new cruzados, which represents a reduction of 1.6 percent from last year.

Policemen Caught Trafficking in Mato Grosso

PY2002143890 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] The Mato Grosso do Sul Federal Police Department has confirmed that federal and highway policemen are involved in a cocaine-traffickers' ring. Nine people have been arrested, but more are believed to be involved.

For more than a year, the Mato Grosso do Sul Federal Police knew that Carlos Freire, a lawyer, was a drug trafficker and that he was connected with many policemen. He was arrested this past weekend while carrying five kg of cocaine. He confessed that he worked for five highway policemen and four federal civilian policemen.

The Federal Police have released the pictures of two agents, Laudemir Prazeres and Luisio Ze Conceicao, who were arrested this afternoon. They operated in an original and violent manner, a manner perhaps never imagined by even the most experienced policemen. They transported cocaine in police cars and, to increase their profit, they used to kill the drug trafficker and steal the drug. They even worked in an antidrug operation.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified policeman] The drug was carried by policemen.

[Reporter] Were drugs found in the police cars?

[Policeman] Yes it was.

[Reporter] Where was it to have been taken?

[Policeman] (?We don't know). They worked on their own. Sometimes they took it through federal civilian police and highway police barriers. At these points, they had their allies. They also had allies to locate and contact drug traffickers in the city. I believe this is human degradation at its greatest level. A policeman is paid by the federal government, by the people, to protect society; if he then takes advantage of his position to turn against society, it is shocking. [end recording]

Chile

National Renewal, Aylwin Officials Hold Talks

PY2102005190 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] The National Renewal Party and the elected government of Patricio Aylwin today agreed on the need to amend both the 1980 Constitution and the organizational charter of the Armed Forces and on the creation of a system for the direct election of mayors. These were the main issues analyzed during the first meeting between representatives of the future government and members of the National Renewal technical congressional committee.

The meeting was attended by Edgardo Boeninger, who has been named secretary general of the Presidency; Enrique Correa, who has been named minister secretary general of government; and the members of the technical congressional committee of the coalition of parties for democracy. Among the committee members were Pedro Correa, Jorge Burgos, and (Ignacio Walker).

The National Renewal Party was represented by Andres Allamand, (Gonzalo Iriguren), and (Juan Luis Bordon). At the end of the meeting, Enrique Correa said that the coalition outlined its position on the issues to be analyzed by Congress.

Andres Allamand told reporters about the position his party will adopt toward the Aylwin administration:

[Begin Allamand recording] We have taken a step I believe is very significant from the viewpoint that the installation of Congress should emphasize the role of the legislative branch, its expediency, and the security of its procedures, which are essential for any transition toward democracy. As we have said here, the task of consolidating democracy calls for the participation of all political sectors. We are the main opposition party, and our participation will be that of an opposition party. In this new democracy, however, the opposition should be able to formulate constructive initiatives to serve the country.

We have said that we intend to eradicate the old concept of opposition, which was sterile and unproductive, because opposition parties did their best to frustrate the initiatives of the government. [end recording]

The representatives of the government of Patricio Aylwin and its technical congressional committee will hold a similar meeting with the technical congressional committee of the Independent Democratic Union.

More on Iran Arms Sales, 'Iran-Corfo Scandal'

PY2002225190 Santiago HOY in Spanish 5-11 Feb 90 pp 8-11

[Report by Gilberto Villarroel]

[Text] On the evening of 20 May 1986, the Jenka, a Danish cargo ship with an empty hold, was anchored in Valparaiso Bay.

The ship, which was specially fitted to carry weapons, had been "waiting in line" for 120 days, meaning—in port operation jargon—that it was waiting for its turn or for the arrival of its cargo.

The five-man crew was uneasy. They were waiting for a shipment of 400 "wasp" cluster bombs produced by Ferrimar [expansion unknown]—a subsidiary of FAMAE (Army Ordnance)—and bound for the Middle East. The destination of the shipment was Iran. The users: the Armed Forces of Imam Ruhollah Khomeyni.

The secret shipment was having problems on land.

The five crew members made a decision that night, taking on fuel and food and fleeing toward Panama. In the dark, no one noticed the ship's departure, not the shipping company in charge of the ship nor the port's captain—a Navy officer who was supposed to authorize the move. The Jenka left an unpaid debt of $30,000 owed to the shipping company.

The case was reported by the press, and Ferrimar rushed to say it was selling weapons to Pakistan and Nigeria. It was also said that the government, for ethical reasons, would not allow the enterprise to offer the "wasp" bombs to Iran. In fact, Chilean businessman Carlos Cardoen was already selling "clusters" [preceding word in English] to Iraq. Doing business at the expense of the two sides confronting each other in the long Persian Gulf war was not considered appropriate.

The deal, however, was attractive because there could be millions of dollars in profits. Countries like Brazil and the USSR were known to be selling weapons to both Iran and Iraq. The USSR was directly selling weapons to Iraq and supplying Iran through middlemen. Chile knew of a similar example: during the Beagle Channel conflict, which almost ended in a war with Argentina, Israel sold missiles to both sides.

Therefore, in a carefully planned operation, Ferrimar and FAMAE were able to sell cluster bombs to Iran.

The middleman would be Frenchman Bernard Stroiazzo, the same person who three years later would cause the "Iran-Corfo" [Production Development Corporation] scandal (HOY, No. 655).

It is only now that Stroiazzo's history has been made public. An engineer hired by Iran's National Petroleum Company, he served as a representative of Ferrimar and FAMAE to the Iranian Government in the sale of cluster bombs in 1986. After two shipments of defective bombs, the Iranians decided they could cause more casualties among their own men than among enemy troops. Stroiazzo was taken hostage for 18 months.

He managed to leave and traveled to Chile. With the help of CNI [National Intelligence Center] Director Brigadier General Hugo Salas, he contacted Corfo officials who helped him arrange compensation. He arranged a preliminary accord for establishing a toxic waste recycling plant in Chile, but the deal failed. He

then filed a lawsuit against Corfo in the 19th Civil Court of Santiago. Corfo has not yet been notified of the lawsuit. The problem, at least as far as the toxic waste plant is concerned, will be inherited by the new government—which will take over on 11 March—and by Corfo.

Did Ferrimar lie to the Chilean Government?

This enterprise was known to have good contacts with the authorities. Among the partners of Ferrimar owner Aldo Pesce were retired General Manuel Contreras Sepulveda, former chief of the National Intelligence Directorate, DINA; General Raul Reyes, FAMAE director, and Colonel Carlos Carreno, who was a FAMAE executive and an adviser to Ferrimar on the production of the "wasp" bombs. (A lawsuit filed with the 14th Criminal Court of Santiago under "robbery of industrial secrets" charges claims that the bombs were built with plans stolen from Carlos Cardoen by one of Cardoen's trusted men.)

To export its bombs, Ferrimar needed the authorization of the Defense and Foreign Ministries. The company had to provide what is known in the international weapons market as an "end-user certificate" or "final-user certificate." Ferrimar got one. It was signed in August 1985 by a Nigerian Army officer who, according to sources close to the case, had retired a long time ago. A "triangle operation" was carried out to conceal the true operation. It is not known whether the Defense Ministry has indicted anyone over the deception by which it was victimized.

At the end of January 1986, the first 100 bombs were shipped by plane to Bandar Abbas airport in Iran. Each bomb weighed 227 kg and contained 248 ammunition packages, some of them for immediate discharge and others for delayed action. These were capable of mining large areas for up to 72 hours after a battle.

The first shipment was worth $7 million; $1 million was for Stroiazzo and $1.5 million for the cost of the bombs. The price of the bombs abroad was $14,000 each, but their real cost was only $3,000. The Chilean contact in this operation, Fernando Perez, was to have received $4.5 million.

A test was performed in Iran and the bombs did not work. The Iranian Defense Ministry asked that new tests be carried out in Chile.

In mid-1986, a Chilean Air Force (FACh) Hawker Hunter left Cerro Moreno Airport in Antofagasta and flew over the desert. The plane launched a wasp that hit the ground and broke into two parts without exploding. Another test conducted by two Hawker Hunters could have had more tragic consequences: One of the planes launched a cluster bomb that did not fly long enough. It went off and fragments dispersed everywhere, coming very close to the Hawker Hunter. There are photographs—such as the one published in HOY—showing how dangerous it was for the FACh pilots. FACh Commander in Chief General Fernando Matthei ordered that the tests be suspended indefinitely.

It was too late, however, for Ferrimar and FAMAE. Because of this problem and other financial difficulties for Ferrimar, the Jenka left Valparaiso. It was now necessary to find another way to transport the second shipment of bombs to Iran.

On 26 June 1986, a Boeing 707 belonging to the Race company, on a trip from Mexico, was forced to land at Jorge Chavez Airport in Peru. The plane, which was carrying only two pilots, was carefully inspected because of the suspicion it had aroused. It finally continued on its trip to Pudahuel Airport, where it was loaded with 180 cluster bombs destined for Tehran.

We now know how the story ended: Iran lost a Phantom plane and the chief of that country's Air Force miraculously escaped death by managing to eject at the last minute.

As a result of this incident, French engineer Bernard Stroiazzo and the two Chileans who were supervising the tests were imprisoned for 18 months.

Commander Carlos Carreno, who was then FAMAE's trade manager, offered compensation to Iran. This new business was given a code name: Operation Fox Trot.

On the afternoon of 17 June 1987, Carreno sent a cable to a certain Mr. Ahmedi, who was one of his liaisons within the Iran National Oil Company. This company maintained funds reserved for weapons purchases during the Persian Gulf war. In this document, Carreno gives detailed characteristics of the item that would be given to the Iranian Government as compensation: an F-5 fighter that had served in the FACh, as No. 806, since September 1976.

The craft was a single-seat F-5E model, under series No. 75-0448. This would compensate Iran for the loss of the Phantom that was destroyed in the test on 11 June 1986.

Bernard Stroiazzo was allowed to leave Tehran between 1 and 3 July 1987, but he had to leave his son David as hostage. Stroiazzo then accompanied an Iranian official named Hosseini to Chile. The two met with Carlos Carreno to approve the various contracts and the delivery of the F-5 plane.

At the same time, Ferrimar found an ally in Europe who had contacts in Chile. He was Dino Seferian, an Argentine-born Romanian who the Spanish police believe had been smuggling arms since 1982.

TIEMPO magazine reporters have described Seferian as follows: "Son of a multimillionaire, he has a one-floor apartment at the Paseo Rosales in Madrid. He drives a blue, four-door Maseratti that he normally parks in front of a coffee shop at the end of Paseo de la Castellana. He heads the CIC Iberica company, which has offices on Maria de Molina Street. Although he is a legal resident of Spain, his name in not on the Finance Ministry's list of taxpayers."

According to rumors in Chile and Europe, the Chilean Armed Forces asked his company—which is considered

"a front for the illegal sale of weapons"—to find a purchaser for the 15 FACh F-5 planes, for which Chile was asking $140 million.

Seferian, who opened a Ferrimar sales office in Madrid, helped contact the Iranians. The U.S. press, however, learned about the affair and the Department of State vetoed it. Stroiazzo, who went to Chile with Hosseini to negotiate with Carreno, stated that the conditions offered were "unacceptable" to the Iranian Government and added that, as a result, "the visit was a failure."

The Fox Trot operation was about to be aborted.

In the last days of August, Commander Carlos Carreno was preparing his trip to Iran, although he knew he would find a hostile atmosphere. Three days before leaving, on 1 September 1987, he was abducted. He was found 92 days later in Sao Paulo, Brazil, with a rosary in his hands.

Nothing has been heard of the Fox Trot operation since.

During a visit to the National Aeronautics Enterprise (Enaer) at El Bosque in December 1988, it was reported to the media, including HOY, that the fleet of U.S. fighters—F-5E's and F-5F's (single-seat, and double-seat)—was included in a modernization plan. It was also reported that other nations would have to help in the implementation of this plan: They will have to contribute the spare parts that Chile cannot import from the United States as a result of the Kennedy Amendment.

Attorney General Position Abolished as of 1 Mar

PY2102140790 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] The decision to abolish the post of attorney general of the nation was officially made today, and it will become effective 1 March 1990. This information is included in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE under Law No. 18929.

Regarding the post currently held by Ambrosio Rodriguez, the law establishes that the person who is terminated and does not meet the requirements to retire will be entitled to the compensation payment established in Article 148 of Law No. 18834. The law concludes by stating that this compensation payment will not be subjected to taxes nor will it constitute income in terms of legal matters.

Colombia

ELN Declares U.S. Envoy 'Priority' Target

PA2102003390 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2359 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota, 20 Feb (EFE)—U.S. Ambassador to Colombia Thomas McNamara has been declared a priority "military target" of the Marxist Army of National Liberation (ELN) guerrilla group, the ELN announced today in a communique sent to EFE in Bogota.

The communique was delivered in the midst of an ELN offensive that has lasted for over three weeks. It has been characterized by kidnappings, attacks on towns, mobile roadblocks on the main highways, and ambushes set for military and police personnel.

According to the guerrilla group, the purpose of the attack is to protest U.S. intervention in Colombia, sabotage the municipal and legislative elections scheduled for 11 March and the presidential elections on 27 May, and denounce the "dirty war."

In today's message the ELN lists "Ambassador Thomas McNamara" as a "priority" military objective at the top of their list. It added that other targets are "U.S. military advisers," "U.S. citizens who head the multinational Texas and Occidental oil companies," and "all Americans who intervene in one way or another in our nation's internal conflict."

This pro-Castro guerrilla group is holding U.S. citizens David Leslie Kent and James Arthur Donnelly, who were kidnapped in Medellin on 12 and 13 February, to protest U.S. President George Bush's visit to this country.

Bush met on 15 February in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia) with his counterparts Alan Garcia of Peru, Jaime Paz of Bolivia, and Virgilio Barco of Colombia in what became known as the "drug summit."

U.S. priest Francisco Amico Ferrari, kidnapped on 15 February in Cali, was released on 19 February by the ELN with a message about "Operation Colombia," which denounces U.S. intervention in the "dirty war" with which Colombia is afflicted.

In today's communique the guerrillas say "the United States has military advisers in the Colombian Army headquarters to direct the implementation of the dirty war."

They also denounce "the direct leadership of U.S. advisers in intelligence and military repression operations in the areas of conflict."

The ELN is also still holding Social Conservative Senator Jorge Sedano Gonzalez, kidnapped on 9 February near Bucaramanga in the northeastern part of the country with his secretary Jorge Mesa, who was released on 19 February.

The ELN released Mesa with a message for former Social Conservative president Misael Pastrana (1970-1974), reiterating that Sedano will be released only if he declares that he is opposed to the dirty war and reveals the whereabouts of Fernando Porras, an ELN member who disappeared in Bucaramanga on 5 February. According to the guerrillas, Porras was arrested and "caused to disappear" by the 5th Army Brigade, which denies this.

The ELN is the only Colombian guerrilla group that has persisted in the armed struggle. The five other rebel

groups have declared unilateral truces to guarantee a climate of peace for the upcoming elections.

These groups are the communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the Maoist Popular Liberation Army, the Trotskyist Revolutionary Workers Party, and the Indian Quintin Lame Movement, in addition to the 19 April Movement, which is about to conclude a peace process begun 16 months ago.

Rebel Actions Reported Throughout Nation

PA2002152990 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1213 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota—As a result of an offensive launched by ELN [Army of National Liberation], EPL [Popular Liberation Army], and FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] rebels, five peasants and four guerrillas have died, five policemen have been wounded, and property losses in the millions have occurred. The rebel actions took place in the Departments of Bolivar, Meta, Santander, Northern Santander, Cordoba, Antioquia, and in the Arauca Intendancy.

According to the authorities' preliminary report, ELN guerrillas apparently blew up a power tower in Cartagena causing a blackout in most parts of Cartagena City. Subsequently, the ELN rebels shot at three emergency medical care centers, wounding five policemen.

Similarly, two bomb attacks on the Cano Limon-Covenas and Central de los Llanos Orientales oil pipelines conducted by ELN rebels have resulted in property damage in the millions. The two attacks occurred in the Departments of Northern Santander and Meta respectively.

Two rebels have been killed and four others arrested after various clashes between Colombian Army troops and ELN and FARC rebels in the Departments of Santander, Meta, and Arauca Intendancy.

In addition, two EPL rebels have been killed in a rural area in Cordoba Department in clashes with a Cartagena Battalion military patrol. The military patrol was conducting search and combing operations in the area. One soldier was also wounded in the clashes.

Similarly, three peasants have been shot to death by alleged EPL members in a rural area of Tierra Alta Municipality, Cordoba Department. Meanwhile, two other peasants, who were accused of helping the police, have been shot to death by alleged ELN members in Barbacoas, Yondo Municipality, Antioquian Middle Magdalena.

Finally, ELN guerrillas blew up a private plane causing property damage in the millions in Nueva Florida, Miraflores Municipality, Bolivar Department.

Envoy to Panama Reportedly To Return to Post

PA2002225690 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 10 Feb 90 p 6A

[Text] Retired General Jaime Hernandez, Colombian ambassador to Panama, will return to Panama in less than one month to resume his duties as head of the Colombian diplomatic mission.

A high-ranking source at the Foreign Ministry made this statement, adding that the United States is complying with Colombian demands, a prerequisite for the return to Panama of Ambassador Jaime Hernandez.

Hernandez has been in Colombia since October of 1989 when he was recalled for consultations by the Foreign Ministry to protest the constant human rights violations of the dictatorship of ousted General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes said that Colombia would consider in due time whether to return Ambassador Hernandez to Panama.

The Foreign Ministry source said that during the inauguration of Honduran President Rafael Callejas, U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle and Foreign Minister Londono Paredes met privately and Vice President Quayle promised that the U.S. troops in Panama would be withdrawn as soon as possible. Quayle even agreed to recommend that the new Panamanian leaders hold a plebiscite to legitimize their rule and facilitate international recognition by the international community.

According to the Foreign Ministry source, the Panamanian Foreign Ministry is also taking steps to resolve the dispute that has arisen between the two countries as a result of comments made by Panamanian President Endara regarding Colombia and President Virgilio Barco after a reported Colombian recommendation that a plebiscite be held in Panama.

The Colombian Foreign Ministry denied that report, stating that "Colombia has not proposed nor will it propose to the Panamanian Government any kind of plebiscite or internal election."

DAS Finds Mechanisms Used To Attack Director

PA2102011090 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 0022 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Text] Bogota—DAS [Administrative Department of Security] today found the mechanisms employed by drug traffickers to attack DAS Director General Miguel Maza Marquez and murder Former Antioquia Governor Antonio Roldan Betancur. DAS issued the following communique reporting on these mechanisms:

According to investigations conducted by DAS through diverse agencies that specialize in the struggle against narcoterrorism, this afternoon we seized sophisticated (Futaba) brand wireless remote-control equipment, which has a range of 200 meters from ground to ground

and 3,000 meters from ground to air. This equipment was employed in the attacks against Gen. Maza on Seventh Avenue and 57th Street in May 1989 and against Antonio Roldan Betancur and DAS installations on 6 December 1989.

This sophisticated wireless system has the following elements: 1) A transmitter with batteries; 2) A receiver and antenna—it is an instrument that receives a signal and turns it into a mechanical impulse to a servomotor; 3) A servomotor, a device that closes the circuit, causing the electrical detonating cap and, therefore, the high-explosive charge to explode.

In addition, five electrical detonating caps, four meters of detonating fuse, and a substance used to chemically ignite devices were found.

Police Capture 4 ELN Members, Seize Weapons

PA2002195290 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Four alleged members of the Army of National Liberation [ELN] were captured in the past few hours by a National Police patrol during a control and check operation being carried out in in the rural area of [word indistinct]. They are Plinio Castillo Castro, Julio Emilio Hidalgo Duarte, Angel Caicedo Vargas, and [words indistinct]. They were carrying 13 revolvers and 43 cartridges for the revolvers. They were arrested in the municipality of San Juan and were turned over with the seized weapons to the competent authorities for investigation.

Paraguay

Foreign Minister Reports Presidential Trips

PY2002182490 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 20 Feb 90 p 10

[Text] President Andres Rodriguez will attend a presidential summit in Chile on 12 March. The summit will be held after the inauguration of Chilean President Patricio Aylwin. Yesterday, the executive branch terminated the duties of Navy Captain Raul Fernandez Colonel as Paraguayan ambassador to Chile. It is still not known who will be appointed to replace him.

Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana held a meeting yesterday morning at Government House with President Rodriguez. Argana reported that President Rodriguez will also travel to Montevideo, Uruguay, on 1 March to attend the inauguration of Uruguayan President-elect Luis Alberto Lacalle Herrera who replaces Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

Argana also said that Rodriguez will attend the inauguration of Chilean President-elect Patricio Aylwin who replaces General Augusto Pinochet. The Chilean inauguration ceremony will take place on 11 March in Valparaiso [as published], Chile.

Argana reported that on 12 March, Rodriguez will attend a presidential summit that will be held in Santiago, Chile. Several other international personalities will attend this summit, including Spanish Premier Felipe Gonzalez and FRG Prime Minister Helmut Kohl. Argana reported that the dignitaries will hold a luncheon.

Rodriguez is also scheduled to attend the inauguration ceremony of Brazilian President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello, who replaces President Jose Sarney. Fernando Collor de Mello will assume his presidential duties on 15 March.

Colorado Peoples Party Officially Established

PY2002220390 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 20 Feb 90 p 10

[Excerpts] The Colorado Peoples Party (PPC), previously a member of the Authentic Colorado Popular Movement (Mopoco-A), was officially established as a party yesterday. The party, which is headed by Ruben Acosta Fleytas, has "democratic leftist" leanings and intends to be a political party "with unquestioned social sensitivity that will introduce principles of social Christian and leftist democratic doctrines to government programs." [passage omitted]

The PPC Executive Committee has been established as follows: Ruben Acosta Fleytas (president), Ramon Becquer (vice president), Marcos Alvarez (secretary general), Emilio Reynal (foreign affairs secretary), Hugo Lovera (organization secretary), Gerardo Lopez (public relations secretary), Jorge Milan Prado (financial secretary), Arcadio Medina (human rights secretary), Elvio Martinez and Enrique Reynal (legal affairs secretaries), Rosalba B. de Becker (womens' affairs secretary), Oscar Espinoal (peasant affairs secretary), Efraim Troche (student affairs secretary), Eugenio Espinoal (social affairs secretary), Aristides Zaldivar (labor affairs secretary), and Miguel Lopez (press secretary). [passage omitted]

PCP Celebrates 62d Anniversary, Perestroyka

PY2102012890 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 20 Feb 90 p 11

[Text] During a ceremony held last night to commemorate the 62d anniversary of the Paraguayan Communist Party (PCP), PCP Secretary General Ananias Maidana said: "Perestroyka has helped Paraguayan Communists make a more critical appraisal of the situation and be more self-critical."

During the ceremony, which was attended by over 500 people, Maidana said that "the political opening achieved in Paraguay is not being properly implemented. This opening is being undermined by the deterioration of crucial socioeconomic problems, such as the irritating social injustice of landless peasants compared to the large property owners, and the miserable salaries paid workers while speculators and large multinational companies are making huge profits."

Representatives of Paraguayan and foreign political and social organizations were also present at the ceremony at the Radio Nanduti "Jacinto Herrera" Theater. The PCP has appeared on the political scene only twice since Stroessner's downfall: once during a ceremony at the "People's House" [Febrerista Revolutionary Party headquarters] and once at a march against corruption.

Maidana added that "instead of searching for solutions to social problems, the government has resorted to the use of brute violence against peasants who need land to work, and against workers such as the Itaipu workers, who have the right to improve their living and working conditions."

Maidana said: "We want to stress that we are convinced the only path to help us overcome this serious socioeconomic and political crisis is the growing, united, and organized mobilization of the people. As evidenced by the struggle against the Stroessner dictatorship and recent experiences, this is the only way for the people to consolidate and expand their freedoms and to achieve a true democracy at the economic, social, political, and cultural level."

Maidana, who also discussed the policies the PCP has followed since its foundation in 1928, stated that "perestroyka, the renewal and democratization to strengthen socialism, has a great progressive meaning for the USSR and for all countries because it upholds as a basic principle the masses' participation in the evolution of history and social development."

Maidana said: "In a recent meeting of its Central Committee, the CPSU admitted the need for political pluralism and for cooperation among all political and social organizations in the multifaceted Soviet society. Therefore, perestroyka represents democratization at all levels of social, political, and economic activity and a reinforcement of the cardinal principles of socialism."

Peru

Garcia Stresses Importance of Cartagena Summit

PY2102023790 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Feb 90

[Excerpts] President Alan Garcia attended a mass this evening at San Francisco church on the 95th anniversary of the birthday of APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] founder Victor Raul Haya de la Torre. [passage omitted]

President Garcia commented on the Cartagena antidrug summit in statements to the media after the mass, saying that it was one of the most important events in recent decades. He also referred to the Senate's approval this afternoon of a bill on the creation of the regional development banking system.

[Begin recording] [Reporter, in progress] ...in Cartagena with U.S. President Bush.

[Garcia] I think it was one of the most important events for Latin America in recent decades. For the first time, a U.S. President has sat down with Latin American presidents to address an issue on a collective basis, on equal footing.

We have agreed that the fight against drug trafficking can be an instrument to promote development in our countries. To eradicate the crops we must replace them with other crops, giving peasants better markets and higher prices. The eradication of drugs will then represent the promotion of development and social progress for our people.

[Reporter] Mr. President, why did no representatives of the coca growers attend the Cartagena summit?

[Garcia] I was accompanied by representatives of the coca growers. I was fortunate to be the only president who was accompanied by representatives of the Huallaga cooperative, which has a membership of almost 40,000 peasants from hundreds of coca-growing communities and cooperatives. They are not criminals. They grow coca because it is the only profitable crop. If developed countries help us grow and process coffee, and if the product can then be transported by plane, then its price will be higher than the current price of coca and our peasants will be able to formalize and legalize their activities.

I believe this summit has shown that Latin American countries can talk and negotiate with firmness and dignity with that great country, the United States, whose influence is at times negative. This influence, however, can be made positive if we react collectively and with dignity. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Shining Path 'Terrorists' Kill 9 in Ayacucho

PY2002143090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2324 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Ayacucho, 19 Feb (EFE)—At least nine members of the "Peasant Patrol Groups" (civilian militia) were killed and another 10 were injured when a "Shining Path" terrorist column attacked the town of (Secceslambra).

Police sources in Ayacucho, some 575 km southeast of Lima, have said that eyewitnesses reported the massacre. The terrorists set fire to the houses and stole cattle from the members of the "Peasant Patrol Groups," which combat the terrorists.

The sources added that the injured were taken some 35 km to hospitals in Ayacucho.

On 17 February, former Justice Minister Cesar Delgado reported that, in 1989, eight people per day were killed as a result of political violence.

According to statistics supplied by the congressional committee that studies the causes of violence in Peru, about 17,900 people have died since the "Shining Path" began its struggle in 1980.

Venezuela

100 People Arrested in Protests, Looting

PA2002184690 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1758 GMT 20 Feb 90

[Text] Caracas, 20 Feb (DPA)—During a telephone conversation with DPA, press sources have reported that Venezuelan security members are trying to control the situation in the downtown area of the city of Barcelona, 300 km east of Caracas, where groups of unidentified people are looting downtown stores.

According to eyewitnesses, National Guard and police members threw tear-gas grenades and shot at groups of people who were trying to loot several stores in downtown Barcelona City.

According to unofficial reports, almost 100 people have been arrested. There are no reports of any injured or dead.

Yesterday, the western Venezuelan city of Merida was the scene of violent student demonstrations that caused heavy property damage estimated at approximately four million bolivars, about $900,000. Several vehicles were burned during the demonstrations. Students were apparently protesting the expulsion of 10 students from the local university.

On 27 February 1989, Venezuelan was shaken by a wave of looting and protests which, according to official figures, resulted in the death of 300 people.

Suriname

Sedoc Visit to Barbados Postponed by 'Illness'

FL1602224890 Bridgetown CANA in English 2201 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 16, CANA—Illness has forced Suriname's Foreign Minister Edwin Sedoc to postpone a three-day visit to Barbados this weekend, the Foreign Ministry here said on Friday [16 February]. The nature of the illness was not specified. The ministry said it hopes to announce new dates for the visit at a mutually convenient time.

Joint Belgian Commission Discusses Cooperation

FL1902185990 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] A Suriname and Belgium joint commission today starts with its second meeting on the execution of a cooperation agreement between both countries. The first discussions in the framework of the development cooperation between Suriname and Belgium were held in September 1988 and resulted in a protocol of arrangements on various projects.

During the discussions which will start today, the joint commission will draft a new cooperation program in the fields of fishery, wood processing, and telecommunications. The discussions will be opened by Natural Resources Minister Pretaapnarian Radhakishun and the Belgian minister of development and cooperation, Andre Geens. The Belgian minister arrived in Suriname last Saturday [17 February]. The Belgian delegation will, besides holding discussion on development cooperation, also visit joint projects which are already off the ground.

Government Says Peace Process To Continue

FL1602132590 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Suriname's government says the peace process with Bush Negro guerrillas will continue despite the resignation of military chief Desi Bouterse as the negotiator for a peace accord. The government issued a statement yesterday saying it expects all parties to do their best to secure peace. It did not respond to allegations made Wednesday [14 February] by Commander Bouterse that it was interfering in the peace process.

Meanwhile, trade talks between the Caribbean Community [Caricom] and Suriname have ended at the Caricom Secretariat in Georgetown. A two-man team headed by Suriname's minister of agriculture made up the Surinamese delegation. Suriname holds observer status in the forum which negotiates with the EEC under the Lome trade program. Suriname says it wants increased trade with Caricom and greater involvement in the regional integration movement.

Tucayana Want Bouterse To Continue Discussions

FL1902184090 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] The Tucayana Amazons want Army Commander Desi Bouterse to continue his peace discussions with the illegal armed group with or without his mandate. Tucayana leader Thomas said this last week in a letter to Army Commander Desi Bouterse. The rebel leader is unhappy over the fact that Bouterse has given over the negotiating mandate to the government. [Word indistinct] pointed out that both the Tucayana and the Jungle Commando have some trust in the army commander. The Tucanaya, therefore, want the peace discussions to be continued and in the letter asked for a discussion with Bouterse.

The leader of the so-called Mandela Movement, (Adam Biko), is also disappointed with the fact that Bouterse [words indistinct] discussion. Both rebel groups have emphasized that they will continue to fight [words indistinct].